Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 70 | WEDNESDAY MARCH 24, 2010 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Have you encountered any problems entering or exiting the CNMI since federal authorities took over immigration functions at the airport?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Guam Buildup
The federal government has given powerful reasons to worry to the 180,000 residents of Guam.

FOCUS...Page 13

New Changes
The first changes under the new health care law will be easy to see and not long in coming.

NATION...Page 15

New Buffet
Hyatt Regency Saipan is introducing Cajun and Creole cuisine to local palates.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Manta Ray Band to showcase NY repertoire in concerts. **PAGE 7**
Advance Census letters now in NMI mailboxes. **PAGE 8**

Board sets hearing for Fernandez

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents received yesterday the results of its internal investigation against suspended president Dr. Carmen Fernandez and has called for a hearing on April 5, during which Fernandez will be asked to explain her side.

> *"Based on the reports, there are questions where President Fernandez needs to substantiate her position."*
>
> **—Board of Regents member Andrew Orsini**

The board accepted the final report from its internal legal counsel yesterday and discussed the findings during a two-and-a-half-hour executive session.

After the session, the board immediately adopted a decision

See BOARD on Page 4

Roberts, Oh are Covenant Day Debate champions

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Amber Roberts of Saipan International School and Hye Young Oh of Marianas Baptist Academy emerged champions in this year's Covenant Day Debate, held at the Guma Hustisia Susupe Monday evening.

Their names were engraved in the perpetual plaque awarded them by the NMI Council for the Humanities. It will be displayed in their respective schools throughout the year.

See ROBERTS on Page 4

INSTEAD OF REDUCING WORK HOURS

'Cut budget more by 12.5 percent'

House panel eyes at least 10 votes to pass austerity bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) called on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday to further reduce the budget allocation for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2010, from 7.25 percent to 12.5 percent, instead of cutting government work hours from 80 to 70 per pay period to address the budget crisis.

But the Fitial administration is keen on reducing work hours by one hour every day as proposed in a pending measure.

"The government has been experiencing serious cash flow reduction that is posing the threat of payless paydays. Because of this impediment, reducing work hours is the most efficient approach at this time," press secretary Angel A. Demapan said when asked for comment on Benavente's rec-

Benavente

See CUT on Page 4

CHC builds fence for security; no charge for public parking

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The ongoing federally-funded construction of a perimeter fence and guard booths at the Commonwealth Health Center is strictly for security reasons during times of biological or natural disasters and terrorism, and will not result in parking charges for hospital visitors, Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said yesterday.

CHC will lock down the facility only during times of declared disasters, and the public is free to park their vehicles during visits to the hospital.

See CHC on Page 4

Radiocom Saipan's Juanito Racoma, left, and Edward Ramia, right, work on the aluminum perimeter fence and guard booths at the Commonwealth Health Center in Garapan yesterday afternoon. Radiocom Saipan, which bagged a $226,000 contract for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security-funded project, said construction at the site is expected to be completed by mid-April.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Local

Zoning Office belies lawmakers' allegations

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting Zoning Office administrator Therese T. Ogumoro belied Rep. Stanley Torres's recent public statements about the Zoning Office's treatment of a private business and a now defunct church, but Torres (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday he will continue to push for a six-month suspension of the zoning law.

Ogumoro, in a March 22 letter to Torres, said Saipan Zoning records do not show that Servino & Associates was grandfathered under the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007 "and is currently in violation of the zoning law."

She also said that the Zoning Office did not tell New Beginnings Ministries International Church to vacate its premises.

Ogumoro said the Zoning Office is doing its best to administer the zoning law in a fair, equitable and even-handed manner.

"If you do not believe the zoning law is well written, you can, as a member of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, propose changes to improve the law. Suspending the law is inappropriate because zoning is a business-friendly activity that provides certainty and predictability to business and residents alike," Ogumoro told Torres.

Torres insists, however, that the Zoning Office "continue[s] to drive business away."

Besides being not business friendly, he said, the zoning law has "rigorous" requirements for surveyors, and unnecessarily requires private property owners to secure a zoning clearance first before subdividing their property.

"The zoning law needs to be suspended for six months to fix it. I am urging my colleagues to support my bill suspending the zoning law," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

When asked whether he will have enough support from his colleages, Torres said: "I don't know yet."

Servino & Associates

In March 2008, after the zoning law went into effect, Servino & Associates obtained a business license indicating that the business was located in Chalan Laulau, said Ogumoro.

She said the record of zoning inquiry on file with the Zoning Office dated February 2009 also indicates that Servino & Associates was requesting to relocate from Chalan Laulau to San Jose, and that "the proposed use is not permitted in the zoning district."

"Accordingly, no zoning permit was issued at that time," she told Torres.

The acting zoning administrator said there is a building permit for Jose Servino dated Aug. 21, 2007 for a "semi concrete two-bedroom" unit but there is no indication that the building is for office space or that this space was related to Servino & Associates.

She said if Servino employed only one non-family employee, it could apply for a home business license in a residential area, but the business employs more than one outside employee.

"For these reasons, the business is not grandfathered in and is currently in violation of the zoning law," Ogumoro told Torres.

New Beginnings

In her two-page letter, Ogumoro clarified that the Zoning Office did not tell New Beginnings Ministries International Church to vacate its premises.

She said the Zoning Office told the church that a church is a conditional use in a residential neighborhood and that there is a process for approving conditional uses.

"Unfortunately, New Beginnings has elected not to apply for a conditional use permit. The process of applying for a conditional use permit doesn't require anyone to break a valid lease before any determination has been made. The process of applying for a conditional use permit certainly does not prohibit people from worshipping as they please in their home or having friends over to worship," she said.

The process simply requires forms to be filled out and information provided, so that the Zoning Office and the Board can make a determination under the zoning law.

Ogumoro also said that if Servino, and Rev. Paula N. Kalei, founder and senior pastor of New Beginnings Ministries International Church, would like to discuss zoning issues, they should come in to the Zoning Office in Dandan to discuss the matter with her.

You gotta get in.
Save even more with DOCOMO PACIFIC's new Individual Network plan.
My family is 'in'...
...and so is dinner.
Pick up to 5 and Save
Depending on your plan selection, you can choose up to five people to make and receive unlimited calls and get huge savings on your phone bill each month!
• Includes calls to and from Tinian, Rota and Guam.
• Convenience of any phone, any network.
Rates starting as low as $45.00* per month
FREE activation!
* Rate plan for 2 people start at $25.00 per month. For details, call 483-CARE. Terms and conditions apply.
individual network
It's your network. Who you put 'in' is up to you!
NTT docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC
483-CARE | www.docomopacific.com | Typhoon-Proven
Gualo Rai, Middle Road • MITA Travel, Garapan

April 6, 2010
Northern Marianas College
D-1 Room
5:00pm-7:00pm
April 7, 2010
Multi-Purpose Center
5:00pm-7:00pm
For more information, please e-mail kilili@mail.house.gov or call 323-2647/8.
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan is here to listen. Come share your thoughts on issues that matter to you and the community. It's about working together for a better and stronger Commonwealth.
TOWNHALL 2010
Face to Face with U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
This advertisement was prepared, published, and distributed at taxpayer expense.

OIA's Babauta to visit CNMI anew

U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta is expected to arrive on Saipan Wednesday night for his second visit to the CNMI since the U.S. Senate confirmed his appointment last year.

Babauta is set to meet with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, officials of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, among others, on Thursday and Friday.

Press secretary Angel A. Demapan confirmed yesterday that "at Babauta's request, Governor Fitial is expected to meet with him on Thursday."

Babauta was in the CNMI in January to attend Fitial's second inauguration.

Prior to visiting Saipan, Babauta was in Guam early this week to accompany President Barack's Obama's chief environmental adviser, Nancy Sutley.

The Office of Insular Affairs has yet to respond to media inquiries about Babauta's main purpose in visiting the CNMI.

Babauta's visit comes at a time when the CNMI government and federal officials are at odds on the issue of authority over nonresident workers and umbrella permits.

In Babauta's last visit to the CNMI in January, he visited the Commonwealth Health Center's dialysis project in Garapan, which was funded by OIA money. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Prosecutor withdraws motion to set aside Aldan's plea agreement

A prosecutor asked the Superior Court yesterday to withdraw his earlier motion to set aside the plea agreement in the case against Vicente T. Aldan, the husband of special assistant for political affairs Dolores Aldan.

Associate Judge David Wiseman, however, did not issue a ruling and set the hearing on March 31 as attorney Joaquin DLG Torres, counsel for defendant Vicente T. Aldan, was not in the courtroom.

Assistant attorney general George Hasselback told the court that his supervisor—Chief Prosecutor Rosemond Santos—instructed him to withdraw the motion.

Hasselback said he does not know why Santos asked him to withdraw the motion since he was not involved in the decision-making. He also asked Wiseman if the judge wants another prosecutor to handle the matter.

When Hasselback left the courtroom, he saw Torres who had just emerged from another hearing. Hasselback and Torres went back to Wiseman's courtroom, but the judge said he has a jury trial.

Hasselback said it is his fault that Torres was not in the courtroom because he did not inform him of the need to appear.

Torres told Saipan Tribune he was in the other courtroom.

Torres was also not present during the March 9 hearing of Aldan's case but assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher told the court that Torres was not served the motion.

The 52-year-old Vicente Aldan was sentenced in November last year to six months in prison for assaulting his former wife in July 2009 on Tinian. He agreed to plead guilty in exchange for some considerations.

In February this year, Hasselback filed a motion to set aside Aldan's plea agreement, saying that Aldan failed to comply with the conditions of his plea bargain, including the surrender of a firearm. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Fenny Hair Cut Beauty Parlor
Specials: Eyelash Extension-$10.00
Wart Removal-50¢ each
For Rebonding or Perming Services
Free Hot Oil Treatment
Tel.: 235-0393 • Open Daily: 10:00am - 10:00pm
Located in Chalan Piao Road beside Holiday Club

PHI PHARMACY
Diabetes Shoppe® Your Partner In Diabetes Care
Good Neighbor Pharmacy
Pre-Inventory Sale
25% OFF All OTC items
50% OFF Selected items
At all three locations
- Navy Hill (CHC) 322-5000/01/02
- Dandan (Joeten Center) 235-6170/71/72
- Marina Heights II (Puerto Rico) 323-5100

March 15-31, 2010
Website: www.phipharmacy.com

I just got a great pair of glasses for just $77.00! at Marianas Eye Institute

Just $77.00 for a complete pair of glasses:
- Lens & Frames included
- One-year warranty
- Selected Brands
- Lightweight lenses
- $127.00 for Progressive "no-line" bifocals

Most Insurance Accepted
Walk-ins welcome
235-9090
Beach Road, Garapan
www.MarianasEye.com
Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

Live the Fiesta Way!
Easter Egg Hunt & Talent Show 2010
@ Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan

If you are 4 to 11 years old,
Know how to sing, dance or declaim,
show what it takes to be a STAR.
Kids who will participate get a special gift
and a FREE EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH.
Plus prizes for kids in Special Costumes
Special Easter Basket
And a Grand Prize to the one who will find
the EASTER GOLDEN EGG
Enjoy the sumptuous Sunday Brunch
April 04, 2010
$25.00 for Adults / $12.50 Children 4 to 11 years old
Registration starts at 10:00 am
Hibiscus Hall Sunday Brunch opens at 10:30am
Mai, The Bund, World Cafe' Restaurants opens at 11:00am
To register your child for the talent show,
Please call Oscar Yema at 483-6414.
For reservations, please call Socorro or Verlyn
at 233-6414 or at 234-7171 Ext. 1547/1548
FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

BOARD

From Page 1

to call for the April 5 hearing, and emphasized that it will be just between the board and the president, who will be allowed to bring her legal counsel.

Fernandez's lawyer, Brien Sers Nicholas, was present during yesterday's meeting.

Six regents voted for the hearing. Regent Charles Cepeda left the meeting early and was considered excused, according to the board.

Fernandez did not return *Saipan Tribune*'s call for comments as of press time.

In an interview after the meeting, the board's personnel committee chairman, Andrew Orsini, said the hearing was prompted by the reports submitted by the Office of the Attorney General and Cabot Mantanona, the Guam-based law firm hired to specifically handle the issue of Fernandez's suspension.

"Based on the reports, there are questions where President Fernandez needs to substantiate her position," Orsini told reporters.

Although he cannot estimate how long the hearing will take, Orsini said the decision will depend on the board.

The board has two options to take after the hearing: reinstate Fernandez or terminate her contract. The board could make a decision after the hearing or call for another meeting to take the actual vote, Orsini said.

When asked if it was the OAG and NMC legal counsel that recommended the hearing, Orsini said no. The president's contract provides her the right to due process, he said.

"The president's contract stipulates that if there's any such question of action or authority that she has been doing…she has the right to be accorded due process," he explained.

Orsini refused to disclose the findings of both reports, citing the confidentiality of the matter.

A highly placed source at the college said, though, that both investigation results contained similar findings of probable cause against Fernandez.

Confidential reports

Fernandez was investigated for alleged changing of students' grades and other personnel matters at the college.

Attorney General Edward Buckingham and case investigator Vince Babauta submitted last week their 25-page report containing the agency's findings on the allegations.

The Cabot Mantanona report submitted yesterday also contained over 20 pages, and included interviews with numerous individuals.

The board suspended Fernandez on Jan. 12 pending the twin investigations against her. Since then, she has not been seen on campus. Lorraine Cabrera was immediately appointed interim president.

Saipan Tribune learned that, although both reports were discussed and presented to the board, all copies were taken back after the executive session by both the OAG and the college's internal legal counsel.

When asked if there's any differences or similarities in the findings of both reports, Orsini admitted that "in terms of result, they are pretty much similar." He declined to comment further on the findings.

He described the April hearing as "very critical" to the resolution of the case. "This is a very complex issue because it involves various laws. This is the reason why we hired the law firm from Guam because they are familiar with these educational laws," Orsini said.

'Where's legal counsel Borja?'

As soon as the board meeting began at 2:54pm yesterday, regent Maria Malua Peter asked board chair Janet Han King for the presence of the college's other legal counsel, Jesus Borja. Peter said she needs the guidance and opinion of Borja on certain "policy issues."

This was not granted, with King citing the presence of Cabot Mantanona lawyers who could provide legal advice to the board. Unless the Cabot Mantanona lawyers can't provide the needed service, King said the board may call Borja anytime during the meeting if necessary.

A little tension arose when board vice chair Paz Younis asked the board to "focus and concentrate" on the issue of the president's suspension before addressing other matters faced by the board.

"Let's concentrate on this issue…so we can move on. I believe other matters can wait and it is very important for us to resolve this issue of the president's suspension," Younis told the board.

Peter responded: "What you're basically saying is, we just keep quiet here?"

Prior to going into the executive session, King told members of the public that the executive session will specifically tackle Fernandez's suspension.

CUT

From Page 1

ommendation.

At the same time, House Ways and Means Committee chair Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan) hopes to have enough votes to pass his austerity bill during Thursday afternoon's session.

"It's unfortunate that one of our colleagues, who would have voted yes, Rep. Frederick Deleon Guerrero, won't be able to make it into the next session. We need a simple majority if there will only be 19 members present, so we hope to have at least 10 votes," he said yesterday.

The Covenant Party has seven members at the 20-member House, but the four independents have aligned themselves with the ruling party, making them the majority bloc. There are nine Republicans at the House.

Benavente also said any proposal to cut government employees' salaries will affect not only the buying power of the employees but will also reduce government collections from taxes and fees.

"The 7.25 percent is not enough... Further reducing budget authority will also be consistent with what the judiciary and other agencies are asking for instead of affecting employees' salaries. Cut further the budget allocation, and let each agency decide where to cut costs. I see that as a better resolution," Benavente told *Saipan Tribune.*

Benavente, a former lieutenant governor, said once the governor further revises the budget authority, he can also reprogram funds from non-critical agencies to critical areas like public health and safety.

Demapan said reducing work hours equates to reducing payroll disbursements on top of realizing savings in areas such as electricity, water and fuel.

"The bottom line is that the decline in revenues continues to threaten cash availability," he added.

Fitial ordered on March 9 an immediate across-the-board 7.25 percent cut in the current budget of CNMI government agencies and offices, with the revision of projected revenues for FY 2010 to just $137 million.

The original estimated resource for FY 2010 was $150.500 million, with $148,083,551 for government operations.

Due to a projected decline in revenue, Fitial adjusted this amount to $137,350,000, representing a 7.25 percent reduction that he said "must be absorbed by the budget authority remaining for the fiscal year."

Acting Finance Secretary Robert Schrack, in a March 2 memo to then acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos, reported a projected shortfall of $13.15 million in FY 2010.

Crossing party lines

Benavente said "majority of the minority [bloc] is opposed to the austerity bill" introduced by Basa.

But he said each minority member is not forced to vote based on party affiliation.

"We have decided to make it a non-partisan voting. Each member is free to vote based on his understanding of the proposal and its effects. …We are all aware of the financial crisis," he said.

Basa, for his part, said he has also been lobbying Republican members of the House "to put politics aside and look at the merits of the bill."

"I hope we have the number," he said.

Rep. Stanley Torres, one of the independent House members, said he will vote "yes" on the austerity bill when it comes up for voting in the next session.

He said implementing an across-the-board pay cut is better than applying it only to some.

"I am pretty sure the bill will have 12 or 13 votes," he said.

Other House members are still undecided about voting on the bill, including former Ways and Means Committee chairman Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan).

"[There are] still a lot of unanswered questions pending," Yumul said.

The governor earlier urged lawmakers to pass Basa's original austerity bill, which would have cut government work hours to 72.

However, the House voted to kill the committee report recommending passage of House Bill 17-22 after some 30 parents, teachers, and other education officials from Saipan, Tinian and Rota urged lawmakers not to pass it.

Basa introduced another austerity bill, House Bill 17-45, which is expected to be taken up during Thursday's session. This second bill will cut government work hours by 10 each pay period, more than his original proposal of eight hours per pay period. But his latest bill spreads out the work hour cuts every day, from 7:30am to 8:30am, compared to the original measure of shutting down government agencies every other Friday.

ROBERTS

From Page 1

Roberts, 13, bested lone opponent Jessica Lee of Marianas Baptist Academy in the competition's senior division, while Oh defeated schoolmate Kanata Omori in the junior division.

Roberts described her win as "very surprising" because she didn't expect to beat the equally tough Lee.

This was Roberts' first time to participate in the debate.

The competition's resolution was: "Voting on matters pertaining to Article XII of the CNMI Constitution should be restricted to persons of NMI descent."

Affirmative side

Roberts, who argued for the affirmative side, got the approving nods of judges with her three contentions.

First, she believes that restricting the right to vote on Article XII to indigenous people would increase the likelihood that land will remain affordable in the CNMI.

"If the vote is open to non-indigenous people, those voters would almost certainly fundamentally revise or revoke Article XII. In that situation, the demand for land would increase due to the increase [in the number] of potential buyers who can now legally purchase land," she said, adding that since the land supply remains static, this will result in significantly higher prices.

She believes that indigenous people who sell their land will get a one-shot income boost, but they will lose their land.

Roberts also pointed out that Chamorros and Carolinians have greater loyalty, sense of history and belonging, and cultural investments within the CNMI and therefore should be the ones who vote on matters pertaining to owning and selling of lands.

"Both ethnicities [Chamorro and Carolinians] have been living in the CNMI for an extensive period of time and thus have a cultural and ancestral connection to the lands within the CNMI. Not only do they have a better sense of history, but their culture is engraved into the Commonwealth. The CNMI was built upon the foundations of the Chamorros and Carolinians, thus people of those descents should be deciding its future," she said.

In her final argument, Roberts argued that indigenous people are the most affected by any amendment to Article XII and should be the ones who vote for it.

"Because they are currently the only people allowed long term interests, the decision about whether to relinquish those rights should be theirs alone. They're the most affected and therefore should remain the only ones voting on this crucial issue. After all, this is their home. That's the way it has been, and that's the way it should continue to be," she said.

Roberts said that land is by far the most important asset that the indigenous people of the CNMI own. The Commonwealth, she added, has no significant mineral or other natural resource wealth.

"If you lose your connection to your land, you end up losing your culture. Because land is such an integral part of their lives and their future, it is essential that we restrict voting on Article XII to those of NMI descent," Roberts added.

Negative side

Oh, meantime, successfully defended the negative side of the resolution.

"People have a right to vote, according to the Constitution. People ought not to be refrained from voting," Oh said, adding that people have the right to decide on matters that directly or indirectly affect their lives.

She pointed out that, based on the principle of equality before law, racism is a crime.

"The actions of taking someone's right to vote and racism are breaking the law. …Affirming the resolution will mean breaking the law and [will] subject the country to chaos and destroy democracy," Oh said.

Monday night's competition was moderated by Patricia Coleman and judged by Jacinta Kaipat, Leo Pangelinan, and Marian Aldan-Pierce.

NMI Council for the Humanities board chair Charles Reyes Jr. and council executive director Scott Russell were also present to award plaques to deserving students.

CHC

From Page 1

Radiocom Saipan, contractor for the project, said yesterday that the target date for the project's completion is mid-April 2010.

The black perimeter fence is made of aluminum, workers at the project site said.

Leo Ganacias, managing director of Radiocom Saipan, said the project contract is worth $226,000.

Villagomez said the U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued a funding grant to the CNMI Homeland Security Office for the perimeter fencing of CHC.

"During times of declared terrorism, biological or natural disaster event, we need to protect and secure the only hospital in the CNMI. The perimeter fencing will allow us to monitor and allow only those healthcare workers that are designated to work under such an event and control the crowd to allow only those needing medical care to enter," Villagomez told Saipan Tribune in an e-mail response to questions.

He said in times of disasters, everyone else will be kept out of the facility so that healthcare workers can focus on taking care of those needing attention rather than worry about crowd control in the Emergency Room or hallways of CHC.

Villagomez said once the project is completed, CHC will be having drills to test its ability to "lock down" the facility when the need arises.

He added that CHC will man the guard booths during designated disaster event.

"There are no plans to charge for parking at CHC," he added.

The Department of Public Works is the contracting agency, consulting engineer, and design architect for the project.

Change of plea hearing for Arriola

Attorney Joseph Aldan Arriola is set to appear today in federal court for a change of plea hearing.

According to the U.S. District Court for the NMI's court calendar, Arriola's change of plea hearing will be at 1pm.

Saipan Tribune checked at 3pm yesterday and found that no plea agreement has been filed yet in court between the U.S. government and Arriola.

Attorney Steven Pixley is the court-appointed counsel for Arriola. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler is prosecuting the case.

The court earlier set a new jury trial date of May 17, 2010 at 9am.The original jury trial was on March 1, 2010.

The U.S. government charged Arriola and former Rita Kaipat estate administrator Luis Pelisamen with wire fraud and money laundering for stealing over $600,000 from the estate's account.

Arriola was the then counsel of Pelisamen. Arriola fled to the Philippines, while Pelisamen was arrested and subsequently found guilty and sentenced to five years in prison and ordered to pay $625,775 in restitution to the estate.

Philippine authorities arrested the fugitive Arriola on June 16, 2009 in the Philippines, where he was then detained for five months.

The Philippine government deported Arriola to Saipan on Nov. 25, 2009. The lawyer has been in federal custody after the court refused to grant him bail. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Sablan: Passage of omnibus immigration bill a shame

Former representative Tina Sablan has expressed disappointment with the Legislature for passing on Friday the Fitial administration-sponsored omnibus immigration bill that asserts CNMI control over nonresident workers.

Sablan said the House and the Senate "obviously passed the bill without conducting public hearings or providing people the opportunity to look into it."

The former lawmaker said she understands no consultations were made even with federal officials.

"I think it's a shame," said Sablan in an interview during the forum with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Guam/CNMI field office director Walter Haith at the Kilili Pavilion on Saturday night. Sablan said she has not even seen a copy of the legislation.

Haith refused to comment on the bill.

Over a hundred alien workers and individuals with immediate relative status attended the forum.

United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed said he will suggest to the Legislature and the local government to conduct more research on the bill.

Syed said the Legislature and the local government should develop good communication with federal agencies in order to have a better working relationship that will only result in economic growth for the CNMI. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

ICE files more cases for deportation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A federal immigration judge from Los Angeles is on island for four days to hear removal cases, including cases related to the recent human smuggling attempt to Guam.

Immigration Judge Philip L. DiMarzio began hearing the cases yesterday at the Saipan U.S. Immigration Court. He is set to conduct more hearings today, Wednesday, until Friday.

This developed as the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement filed more removal cases against several Chinese respondents, a few Filipinos, and citizens of Federated States of Micronesia.

For today's hearing, DiMarzio is set to hear 20 cases, including seven new ones.

The seven respondents in the new cases are Yibin Zheng, Zhaohai Zheng, Shi Ying Wei, Yi Wu, Jun Hua Chen, Jian Dong, and Michael Marcelino.

Except for Marcelino, the rest are among the 22 Chinese nationals arrested in January for trying to sneak into Guam using a boat.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, DiMarzio was appointed immigration judge in March 2008. From 1988 to 2008, he served as a circuit court judge, 16th Judicial Circuit, Illinois.

DiMarzio is the third federal immigration judge to conduct immigration hearings on Saipan since the federalization law took effect on Nov. 28, 2009.

EMO warns of high surf today

The high surf advisory issued Monday by the CNMI Emergency Management Office remains in effect until 6am today.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, surf is expected to fall below hazardous levels by Wednesday morning resulting in a moderate risk of rip currents.

"Fresh trade winds are expected through Thursday and combined seas will be around…8 to 9 feet through Thursday," EMO said.

A small craft advisory for hazardous seas is in effect until 6am today.

EMO is strongly advising the public, to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches especially those along east facing reefs as rip currents will be life threatening.

Those operating smaller vessels should avoid navigating in these conditions. If boating is necessary, exercise caution, especially when entering or leaving harbors and near reef lines. ***(EMO)***

JEWELRY AUCTION
Seized Assets from Police Departments, IRS, U.S. Treasury & Secret Service
And others in violation of laws. Items bought from seized assets auctions will go up for bid with other merchandise which includes the majority of items.
HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:
Certified solitaire diamonds from 1 to 7 carats. Many diamond stud earrings. A huge selection of TANZANITE jewelry from 1- to 13 carats. Rolex watches. Large selection of topaz, aquamarine, tourmaline & opal jewelry. 51 carat diamond & ruby necklace. Swiss made gold watches. ESTATE jewelry, Bracelets, bandfles, earrings, necklaces, rings, etc...
HUNDREDS OF PIECES TO CHOOSE FROM
ONE DAY ONLY!
100's of ITEMS
FREE ADMISSION
Saipan World Resort, Beach Road, Susupe
234-5900
TERMS: Cash, Check, Visa, Mastercard, AMEX. Auction not affiliated with any government agency or entity. 15% buyers premium plus sales tax will be added to hammer price. All items subject to error, omissions and withdrawal.
TOTAL VALUE: $2 Million
Roberto Galleries ~ State of Washington Auctioneer License #2506
Sunday, March 28, 2010
Auction: 12 Noon • Preview: 11am

DISCONNECTION NOTICE
IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on March 25, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before March 25.
THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.
* You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than March 25. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.
If you have questions regarding billing or service please call Customer Service at 682-4ITE (4483) or visit our Customer Service Representatives at our Chalan Lau-Lau Office.
IT&E
Life in Motion

2 convenient locations to better serve you!
HARDT EYE CLINIC
Beach Road Clinic
next to Megabyte, Beach Road, Garapan
235-2030
HARDT EYE CLINIC
Kagman Clinic
Kagman III, next to Kagman Postal and Kevin's Video
256-2020
HARDT EYE CLINIC
DAVID HARDT, O.D. | DON HARDT, O.D.
Using advanced technology combined with old-fashioned caring to provide unhurried and understandable exams.
Insurance plans and all major credit cards are gladly accepted

Judy's
Furniture, Antiques, Accessories & Silk Flowers
MOVING OUT SALE
March 27, 2010 – Saturday
65% OFF on all items
8:00a.m. - 6:00p.m.
LOCATED AT MIDDLE ROAD, GARAPAN, ACROSS PACIFIC QUICK PRINT
CALL US! 233-0011

Administration still uncommitted to add'l payments for Fund

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration is noncommittal to the idea of giving the NMI Retirement Fund additional payments on top of what it is paying now: the 20 percent employer's contribution rate and taxes due the Fund.

Tony Muna, who heads the Fitial administration's negotiating team, told Saipan Tribune last week that the current financial standing of the government, which continues to experience a severe drop in revenue collections, prevents it from directing more money to the Fund.

The Superior Court ruled in June last year that the central government owes the Fund $231.6 million in unpaid employer's contribution. That amount has jumped to $280 million as of November 2009.

Pursuant to the court order, starting November 2009, the government increased its contribution rate to the Fund from 16 percent to 20 percent and began remitting to the agency about $100,000 per month in hotel occupancy taxes.

The amount, the Fund and retirees said, is not enough to cover the full obligation of the government.

The Fund still wants to raise the government's contribution rate to 37 percent, based on the recommendation of the Fund's actuarial study.

Muna said, though, that the Fund has to consider other options that are feasible for the government.

"I don't think the government can afford not to pay. It has to make it happen. But we are dealing with a situation in the government…and what we are trying to do is provide the Fund an option that allows for minimizing adversities," he explained.

Muna said the government is still proposing the lockdown of investment funds to a certain amount so the earnings could be used to pay for pension benefits and other obligations.

The government is scheduled to present evidence in court on May 3 whether it can afford to pay an amount higher than the current 20 percent contribution rate.

Muña said there are certain data and information that they need from the Fund to make its final plan on how to pay for its obligation.

He claimed that accrued actuarial liability of the Fund is two years behind. "What we want from the Fund is to get an updated information such as census records of the total retirees at present, active members and beneficiaries so we can make a comparison to see if the decreasing trend is occurring," he said.

Muna said that it's only through updated data that the government can make a sound financial payment plan to the Fund.

Muna also claimed that the current benefit provided to pensioners is "very generous."

The Fund's current membership totals 6,584, with more than half—or 3,651—being active employees who still contribute to the plan. The rest are those receiving retirement benefits and claims, totaling to 2,933.

Sakovich's return visit also a chance to give back

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The last time he spoke before the Saipan Rotary Club was 22 years ago, right after participating in a career milestone: the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

This time, former Olympic swimmer Jon Sakovich took the Rotary podium to speak about his tour around the Pacific Islands to promote the sport and to give back to the community that he credits as the place where he began his swimming career.

Sakovich, the guest speaker at yesterday's weekly Rotary Club meeting, said he plans to visit with some young swimmers at the Marpi pool to give them some pointers and encourage them to continue with competitive swimming.

Sakovich moved to Saipan from Hawaii when he was just 3 years old. He spent about 12 years of his childhood on Saipan before moving to Guam in 1985-1988. "But deep down," he said, "I was still representing Saipan."

After high school, Sakovich was recruited by the University of Florida and competed in the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, Korea.

Some of his other accomplishments include winning the first gold medal for the CNMI in the South Pacific Games when he was 17, earning him the name, "The Golden Boy of the CNMI." Sakovich's specialty was the 400-meter freestyle.

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
Former Olympian and U.S. national swimmer Jonathan Sakovich speaks before Saipan Rotary Club members during its weekly meeting yesterday at Hyatt Regency Saipan. Looking on is Rotary president Kim Forrester.

He barely missed the cuts for the 1992 and 1996 Olympics, qualifying fifth and eighth respectively.

"Even though I did not make it in 1992 or 1996, I have no regrets and I still got a lot out of it," Sakovich said.

After concluding his competitive swimming career, Sakovich began coaching the Bolles High School swimming team in Jacksonville, Florida. Bolles High School maintains a reputation as one of the nation's top swimming programs, developing Olympic level swimmers yearly.

In his visit back to the islands, Sakovich wants to give back to the community. He said that living on Saipan helped him learn that there were no limits to what he could do.

Sakovich just finished a four-day visit from Palau and will be on Saipan for another four days. After that he will head to the Marshall Islands to finish up his tour of the Pacific Islands.

During his visits, Sakovich plans to offer his swimming expertise to coach some young swimmers of all skill levels. He will help younger swimmers with basic swimming lessons as well as give coaching advice to some young competitive swimmers.

"The number one thing parents need to learn when teaching their children how to swim is patience," said Sakovich.

He added that getting kids to think the water is fun helps a lot too. He also believes that it is never too young to teach children how to swim.

Manta Ray Band to showcase NY repertoire in concerts

The Manta Ray Band of Saipan Southern High School will be performing in a two-day farewell concert this weekend, not only raise funds for their upcoming trip to New York City but also to give local fans a taste of what the band will perform at the Carnegie Hall and Central Park.

The band's conductor, William DeWitt, said the group will perform on March 26-27 at the Saipan Southern High School cafeteria.

"The two-day event will include three identical concerts featuring the 41 musicians of our Carnegie Hall-bound band as well as the developing bright young stars of next year's award winning band. Our co-hosts and major sponsors for these concerts are the members of the local chapter of the Lions Club International. We are excited to partner with them in our last major fundraising effort," DeWitt said.

- March 26 (Friday night): 7:30pm at SSHS cafe. Ticket Price: $7 (all ages, same price)
- March 27 (Saturday matinee): 4:30pm at SSHS cafe. Tickets: $5 (all ages)
- March 27 (Saturday evening): 7:30 pm at SSHS cafe. Tickets $7 (all ages)

The repertoire includes *Rush* (Samuel Hazo); *Elegy* (John Barnes Chance); *The Invincible Eagle* (John Philip Sousa); *Alvamar Overture* (James Barnes); Duke Ellington in Concert (medley); *Land of Make Believe* (Chuck Mangione); *Finale from Symphony No. 9* (Ludwig Van Beethoven); *Beyond the Horizon* (Ted Ricketts); *Caprice* (William Himes); Selections from the "Nutcraker" (Tchaikowsky).

The Lions Club will be selling food and beverages at this event. Proceeds from both the ticket sales and the food/beverage purchases will be donated to the band for the Carnegie Hall effort. DeWitt earlier said they need a minimum of $110,000 for the trip.

The band is scheduled to travel be in New York on April 17-23, 2010. Their performance at Carnegie is on April 20. ***(PR)***

RP consulate to oversee absentee voting on Saipan

The Philippine Consulate General in Saipan shall be conducting overseas absentee voting for the president, the vice president, 12 senators and a party-list in connection with the elections in the Philippines on May 10, 2010.

Overseas absentee voting for registered Filipinos in the CNMI will be through postal voting. The schedule of overseas voting in the CNMI shall be from April 10 to May 10, 2010.

Ballots have been sent by the Commission on Election to the Philippine Consulate General. The certified list of overseas absentee voters appears in the Comelec Web site (www.comelec.gov.ph) and may also be viewed at the consulate.

From March 22, 2010, to May 10, 2010 (during office hours Mondays to Fridays excluding holidays), the ballots and corresponding instructions may be personally claimed at the consulate. Voters are advised to bring their passport or voter's ID to the consulate for proper identification.

Registered overseas absentee voters may also claim their ballots at the consulate on the following special schedules:

- March 24 (Wednesday, holiday in the CNMI): 9am to 12pm
- March 28 and April 25 (Sunday during the Sunday Consular Services): 9am to 4pm

Filipino absentee voters who cannot personally pick up their ballots on these schedules are asked to call the consulate at 234-1848 to make arrangements on the method of claiming their ballots. Look for Romeo Garchitorena, Violaflor Enerlan-Ancheta or Lauren Arce.

Starting April 10, 2010, accomplished ballots could either be:

a. Sent by mail directly to the consulate (P.O. Box 500731 CK, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950 CNMI, USA); or

b. Brought directly to the consulate (5th floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan).

Accomplished ballots shall be received at the consulate on the following dates:

- April 10 (Saturday, first day): 8am to 4pm;
- Mondays to Fridays excluding holidays: 9am to 5pm.;
- April 25, 2010 (Sunday, during the Consular Services): 9am to 4pm;
- May 10, 2010 (last day): 8am to 8pm.

Counting and canvassing of votes shall be held at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan on May 10, 2010, at 8pm. Counting and canvassing of votes shall be undertaken continuously until all ballots have been counted and canvassed.

The canvassed results of the overseas absentee voting in the CNMI shall be brought directly by the chairman of the Special Board of Canvassers to the Senate of the Philippines and the Comelec in Manila on the first available flight from Saipan to Manila after the canvassing of votes.

The Philippine Consulate General urges all registered Filipino overseas absentee voters to exercise their right to vote and to vote wisely for the candidates that will lead the country in the following years. ***(PR)***

Six awarded NMC Board of Regents scholarship grants

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents present scholarship awards to six students. The presentation of the awards, facilitated by BOR vice chair Paz Younis, were made on March 22 at the Board of Regents Conference Room at the NMC As Terlaje campus. Back row from left, Younis, Jan Michael Reyes, Livia Pangelinan, NMC Financial Aid officer Daisy Propst, and NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera. Front row from left, Desiree Masga, Meena Benavente, and Juana Atalig. Not in photo is scholarship recipient Ashley Sikayun.

NMC

Six individuals have been selected to receive the Board of Regents Scholarship, which is designed to provide financial aid for students pursuing their bachelor's degree in education at the Northern Marianas College.

The new scholars are Meena Benavente, Desiree Masga, Jan Michael Reyes, Livia Pangelinan, Ashley Sikayun, and Juana Atalig.

"My fellow Regents and I are extremely proud of the initiative these students have taken in applying for the scholarship and meeting all the application requirements," said NMC regent Paz C. Younis.

Recipients of the scholarships will receive $500 per semester for up to eight semesters or up to the completion of a bachelor's degree, whichever is sooner.

Sikayun and Pangelinan completed all requirements for their bachelor's degree in education at the college this past Fall 2009 semester and are currently teachers in the Public School System. They received $500 each to offset the costs of the past semester. The other four recipients are current students pursuing their bachelor's degree in education at NMC.

The selections were based on merit and financial need, and scholarships were awarded on the candidates' community involvement, academic backgrounds, letters of recommendation, and written essays.

"We look forward to following their success along their paths to becoming future educators and educational leaders in the CNMI," added Younis.

The scholarship aims to 1) promote higher education by providing financial assistance for college students in their pursuit of professional careers; 2) help alleviate the critical current and future shortage of skilled and trained workforce for the CNMI; and, 3) provide current public and private sector employees with opportunities to improve their knowledge and skills, and enhance their career and professional development.

In December last year, the NMC Foundation, the fundraising arm of the college, awarded six scholarships to students pursuing an associate's degree at NMC. ***(NMC)***

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SERAPONG	006E	3/13 Sat	3/11 Thu	3/11 Thu	3/9 Tue	3/6 Sat	3/19 Fri	3/15 Mon	3/14 Sun	3/7 Sun	3/7 Sun	3/15 Mon	3/19 Fri	3/21 Sun	3/23 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	035E	3/20 Sat	3/18 Thu	3/18 Thu	3/16 Tue	3/13 Sat	3/26 Fri	3/22 Mon	3/21 Sun	3/14 Sun	3/14 Sun	3/22 Mon	3/26 Fri	3/28 Sun	3/30 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	028E	3/27 Sat	3/25 Thu	3/25 Thu	3/23 Tue	3/20 Sat	4/2 Fri	3/29 Mon	3/28 Sun	3/21 Sun	3/21 Sun	3/29 Mon	4/2 Fri	4/4 Sun	4/6 Tue
MELL SERAPONG	007E	4/3 Sat	4/1 Thu	4/1 Thu	3/30 Tue	3/27 Sat	4/9 Fri	4/5 Mon	4/4 Sun	3/28 Sun	3/28 Sun	4/5 Mon	4/9 Fri	4/11 Sun	4/13 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	036E	4/10 Sat	4/8 Thu	4/8 Thu	4/6 Tue	4/3 Sat	4/16 Fri	4/12 Mon	4/11 Sun	4/4 Sun	4/4 Sun	4/12 Mon	4/16 Fri	4/18 Sun	4/20 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	029E	4/17 Sat	4/15 Thu	4/15 Thu	4/13 Tue	4/10 Sat	4/23 Fri	4/19 Mon	4/18 Sun	4/11 Sun	4/11 Sun	4/19 Mon	4/23 Fri	4/25 Sun	4/27 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SERAPONG	006E	3/27 Sat	3/28 Sun	3/28 Sun	SKIP	3/31 Wed	4/2 Fri	4/4 Sun	SKIP	4/9 Fri	4/10 Sat	4/15 Thu	5/4 Tue	4/18 Sun	4/14 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	035E	4/3 Sat	4/4 Sun	4/4 Sun	4/6 Tue	4/7 Wed	4/9 Fri	4/11 Sun	SKIP	4/16 Fri	4/17 Sat	4/22 Thu	5/11 Tue	4/25 Sun	4/21 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	028E	4/10 Sat	4/11 Sun	4/11 Sun	SKIP	4/14 Wed	4/16 Fri	4/18 Sun	SKIP	4/23 Fri	4/24 Sat	4/29 Thu	5/18 Tue	5/2 Sun	4/28 Wed
MELL SILOSO	001E	4/17 Sat	4/18 Sun	4/18 Sun	4/20 Tue	4/21 Wed	4/23 Fri	4/25 Sun	SKIP	4/30 Fri	5/1 Sat	5/6 Thu	5/25 Tue	5/9 Sun	5/5 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	036E	4/24 Sat	4/25 Sun	4/25 Sun	SKIP	4/28 Wed	4/30 Fri	5/2 Sun	SKIP	5/7 Fri	5/8 Sat	5/13 Thu	6/1 Tue	5/16 Sun	5/12 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	029E	5/1 Sat	5/2 Sun	5/2 Sun	5/4 Tue	5/5 Wed	5/7 Fri	5/9 Sun	SKIP	5/14 Fri	5/15 Sat	5/20 Thu	6/8 Tue	5/23 Sun	5/19 Wed

Weekly service. More frequent. More dependable.

Website: www.mariana-express.com

Exclusive General Agent of MELL

For bookings, you may call our Saipan agent:

CTSI LOGISTICS,
CTSI Building, Lower Base,
P.O. Box 501937,
Saipan MP 96950
Website: www.ctsi-logistics.com

Edgar T. Garcia
Inbound
Direct line (670) 236-2422

Jaime P. Salazar
Outbound
Direct line (670) 236-2410

Leslie F. Rodriguez
Sales and Marketing
Direct line (670) 236-2402

CTSI Logistics
Moving the world

Advance Census letters now in NMI mailboxes

The CNMI Local Census Office announced yesterday the delivery of advance Census letters to all post office box holders in the CNMI.

The letter from U.S. Census Bureau director Robert Groves explains that the official 2010 CNMI Census Forms will be delivered next week. All residents are asked to pick up the form from their box, fill it out and keep it until a census worker visits your household to pick up the completed form.

Census workers will begin to visit all CNMI villages on April 1 and residents should expect to see a Census worker sometime in April through early May.

Census workers will be wearing yellow shirts with the Census logo on the front and back that say "Staff" and have identification badges visible at all times. All Census Workers have been instructed to show their badge when approaching homes to identify that they are official CNMI Census staff.

Census workers will be in the villages in the evenings and on weekends when the majority of residents will be home.

Multi-language telephone assistance for 2010 CNMI Census forms will be available beginning April 1 by calling 288-3040. For other inquiries, call 288-3023/27. ***(Census)***

Panel on maritime security sets meeting

Maritime Safety and Security Committee will have a meeting this Thursday, March 25, 2010, from 8am to 12pm, at the Pacific Islands Club's Napu Room.

All Marianas Island Area Contingency Planning and Area Maritime Security Committee members, port safety and security stakeholders, and the public are invited to attend the meeting as this is the best opportunity to learn about the committee's objectives and the benefits of being a participant.

The MIACP and AMS Committees bring together subject matter experts from the private sector and federal, state, and local agencies that support a safe and secure maritime environment. As such, they act as primary forums to address policies, procedures, best practices, lessons learned, and other maritime safety and security issues within the CNMI.

MIACP/AMS Committee objectives are to identify and communicate maritime threats; provide a venue for partnerships building, information sharing, training and exercises; and the continual development of risk mitigation plans and strategies for natural or manmade emergencies within CNMI's maritime environment and how to deter, detect, disrupt, respond, and recover from those.

This committee meeting is required at least annually by Code of Federal Regulation 103.300. Attendance is limited to no more than two representatives from each business or agency division. Contact Paul Plunkett with the U.S. Coast Guard at (670) 236 2976 to confirm attendance and for more information. ***(USCG)***

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0065
JUAN NORITA DOWAI,	:	
Deceased,	:	

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Marcelina Tagud Dowai has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Juan Norita Dowai, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on Tuesday, May 4, 2010, at the hour of 1:30 p.m.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Juan Norita Dowai, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within 60 days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: March 18, 2010

/S/ Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0185
Plaintiff,	:	
-v-	:	
GENEVIEVE LUANNE S. FITIAL and FRANCISCA S. FITIAL,	:	
Defendants.	:	

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 25,2010, I will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 019 J 80, situated in Dandan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 925 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check No. 019J15, dated November 12, 2003, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 03-2501, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 9, 2010, at the hour of 1;30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 3rd day of March, 2010:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Saipan forum to bring lawmakers, persons with disabilities together

On behalf of CNMI disability organizations, individuals with disabilities and their families, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities will sponsor a forum titled "Meet Your Policy Maker" on Saipan.

Saipan's Forum is scheduled this Friday, March 26, 2010, at the Saipan World Resort from 10am to 2pm and the panelists are members of the Saipan Legislative Delegation.

The purpose of the forum is for individuals with disabilities to educate CNMI policy makers about disability issues in the CNMI. This forum will give individuals with disabilities and their family members an opportunity to provide their input on needs of persons with disabilities in the CNMI in the areas of education, transportation, and housing.

"We are inviting consumers, family members, members of CNMI disability organizations and CNMI stakeholders to attend this important event," the council said in a statement.

Interested individuals requesting special accommodations are asked to notify the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at least three days in advance of their special accommodations needs. This will give the organizers ample time to coordinate and provide the accommodation.

For more information, contact CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Office at 664-7000/7001/7002. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 24, 1999

NMIRF seeks to double govt insurance premium

Government finance officials are finding ways to raise approximately $400,000 in additional funds to cover expenses for the planned increase in government health insurance premiums, according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. Yesterday the governor met with his finance advisers and Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund Board chairman Vicente C. Camacho to discuss a proposal seeking to double the present health insurance plan rates. The NMIRF has put forward the proposal to ensure that it has sufficient funds to pay claims. A periodic actuarial assessment underscores the need to adjust upward the enrollment rates because of increasing medical costs.

Legislator backs 2nd review of project bids

The chair of the House committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications yesterday threw his support behind a complete review of proposals on the new power plant on Saipan as an independent evaluation is likely headed into a second round. In the meantime, a proposed legislation seeking government backing on the controversial project will continue to be deliberated by the panel until the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation reaches an agreement with a possible contractor. "We just have to wait," said committee chair Rep. David M. Apatang. "If the decision comes out and that they need government backing, we will continue and hold a public hearing on the bill."

March 24, 2000

Teno: Talks with US officials focused on aid

Speaking to reporters for the first time in two weeks, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio disclosed he had raised several local concerns to federal officials during a recent economic meeting in Washington, chief among which was the U.S. financial assistance to U.S. insular areas. The local chief executive attended the meeting early this month under President Clinton's Interagency Group on Insular Area (IGIA), which drew participation of leaders from Guam, American Samoa and the Virgin Island as well as senior White House officials. At the top of Mr. Tenorio's agenda at the meeting was the Compact impact funds that have yet been released to the CNMI to help defray the costs of hosting thousands of citizens from the Freely Associated States.

House bill appropriates ambulance fee to DPS

The House of Representatives has passed a bill that will earmark the $250 fee paid for by patients transported to the Commonwealth Health Center by ambulance for repair and maintenance of the vans, as well as purchase of equipment and medicine. Backed by both public safety and health officials, the measure is intended to appropriate the money to the Department of Public Safety for the ambulance of operations instead of using the funds for general expenditures of the government. Under the present system, the Department of Public Health collects the fee and deposited into the general fund, not a single penny of which goes for the maintenance of the fleet of vans by the DPS.

March 24, 2003

CUC OKs $67.3M for FY04

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Board of Directors approved Friday a $67.3-million budget for fiscal year 2004-a nearly 4-percent increase compared to the current annual budget. The new budget, however, already reflects a $12.2 million "director's cut" from the original proposal of $62.6 million for general administrative and operations. The board-approved budget covers $16.9 million for personnel services and $50.4 million for administrative and operations budget. Based on CUC's list, the offices most affected by the $12.2-million cut are Tinian ($3.4 million), comptrollers office ($2.3 million), power generation and power divisions ($1.8 million), waste water and water divisions ($1.5 million), and warehouse ($1 million).

Senate panel to tackle Taitano, Naraja nominations this week

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations is expected to tackle this Friday Gov. Juan N. Babauta's nominees to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Free Trade Zone and Civil Service Commission boards. Among others, EAGI committee members are set to hear and review the credentials of Babauta's Customs and Quarantine Special Assistant, Frank I. Taitano, whose nomination to the CSC board has stirred controversy. Other nominations up for review include those of Velma M. Palacios to the CUC board and the three nominees to the FTZ: Charles V. Cepeda, George Fleming Jr. and Karl Reyes.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

REVISED

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Friday, March 26, 2010 beginning at 9:00 AM at the MPLT Conference Room, Suite #107, Morgen Building; Saipan, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established:

I **PRELIMINARIES**
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II **CONSULTANT'S REPORTS**
- Investment Consultant Reports
- Loan Administrator Reports
  - Portfolio Status Update
  - Default Account Referrals
  - Payment Re-amortization Schedule
  - Loan Modifications
- Legal Counsel Reports
  - Foreclosure Matters
  - APLE 501 Account Reconciliation
  - Fiduciary/Providers Legal Memorandum
- Board Consultant Reports
  - Financial Statements – JAN 2010
  - Flash Reports – FEB 2010

III **OLD BUSINESS**
- Local High Yield Investments RFP Review
- Trustee Liability Insurance Update
- Administrative Matters for Review

IV **COMMUNICATIONS**
- Service Provider Fees Update – Richmond Capital/J.King, Esq.
- Exit Notice – Morgen Ent.
- DPL Meeting Report

V **NEW BUSINESS**
- Employment Announcement Submissions Review & Approval
- FY 2008 Annual Report Review & Approval
- Atalanta Sosnoff – Evercore Announcement
- Senate Legislative Initiative #17-01/17-02
- DPL vs CNMI (Certified Question)

VI **MISCELLANEOUS**

VII **ADJOURNMENT**

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIF Chairman, MPLT Trustees

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.O. BOX 502641, SAIPAN, MP 96950-2641
TEL. NOS.: (670) 664-3300, 3304 • FAX: (670) 664-3310
e-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law B-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", Notice is hereby given that a **Preliminary Hearing is scheduled for March 31, 2010, (Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m., at the CNMI Board of Parole Office, Capitol Hill Road, Building Number 1216,** Saipan. The following individual(s) will appear before the Hearing Examiner:

A. Parolee

1. SABLAN, Joseph Diaz Cr. Cs. No.: 00-0527(C)
   BOP No.: 05-003

If you have any question or information, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Rose Ada Hocog
Hearing Examiner

March 22, 2010
Date

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kagman public meeting on poker arcades

The Kagman Komunidat Association is urging all Kagman residents to attend a public meeting on poker parlors within Kagman village. The purpose of the public meeting is to determine whether poker parlors should be allowed to remain in Kagman or be banned. Meeting will be at the Kagman Community Center on Tuesday, March 30, at 7pm. E-mail kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com for more info. ***(PR)***

Meeting of the Autism Society of the CNMI

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding its monthly meeting on Saturday, March 27, 2010, at 10am at the NMPASI Conference Room. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism related spectrum disorders are invited to attend. For additional information, call John at 234-8803/4 or Larrisa at 322-3761 or send an e-mail to as_cnmi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Democratic Party deadline to accept delegate applicants

The New NMI Democratic Party said the deadline to submit letters of intent to run for U.S. Delegate is on April 9, 2010, at 6pm. Interested individuals may e-mail their letter of intent to nmidemocrats@gmail.com or mail it to PO Box 504789, Saipan MP 96950. ***(PR)***

Marriage Encounter sets Weekend Reunion

The CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter has graduated a record 28 new couples from its Spring Weekend, which took place on March 19-21, 2010. The presenting team consisted of Charles and Cathy Cepeda, Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Mike and Jeanne Emry from California and Vince and Hilma Castro with Bishop Tomas A. Camacho welcoming the new couples at the start and end of the Encounter.

The Marriage Encounter community is inviting everyone to a Weekend Reunion on Thursday, March 25, 2010, starting with a 6pm Mass, followed by the reunion at the Saipan Grand Hotel, Seaside Hall at 6:30pm.

For more information, contact Mark and Jenni Aguon at 287-9742 or Russ and Kanae Quinn at 285-1168. ***(PR)***

Tenorio is new Chamber administrator

Janice A. Tenorio has joined the Saipan Chamber of Commerce as its administrator/planner effective March 22. This is a new position that builds on what was formerly the Chamber Coordinator position. Tenorio will be handling much of the day-to-day management of the Chamber office and she will also take the lead in working with various committees to organize our numerous events throughout the year. The purpose of the expanded responsibilities for the position is to enable the executive director to focus more time on legislative issues and other aspects of local governance that affect businesses and the economy. ***(SCC)***

World Resort offers 'Kids Spring Break Quest'

Saipan World Resort is offering the "Kids College Spring Break Quest 2010" for boys and girls ages 5 to 12 years old.

The first session is on March 29-April 2, while the second session is on April 5 - April 9. The main event is an Easter Egg Hunt on Friday April 2.

Camp hours are from 8:30am (Drop Off) up to 4:30pm (Pick Up).

Camp fees is $100/week or $25/day (including water park, lunch, and snacks).

Camp programs will include Water Safety Quest, Sports Quest, Aqua Adventure Quest, Island Coconut Quest, and Arts & Crafts.

Registration is now ongoing at the Wave Jungle ticket counter. For details and more information, call the Saipan World Resort Kids College at 234-5900 Ext. 356. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 10-015

"EDUCATION LEADERS EVALUATION PROJECT"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in providing a **"Process for the creation and validation of several standards-based evaluation tools and training/instruction of CNMI PSS administrators in the use of such tools"**. The Scope of Work is available beginning March 17, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on Thursday, April 6, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. in the 2nd floor Conference Room, Retirement Fund Building.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Tim Thornburgh, Federal Program Officer via fax to 670.664-3797 or e-mail to thornburght@gmail.com no later than April 12, 2010.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "RFP 10-015" containing (1) Original and Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. Any proposals submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

This project is funded through a grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 10-019

"GRAPHING CALCULATORS FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (PSS)"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting Competitive Sealed Bids for **TWO THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED THIRTY EIGHT (2938) GRAPHING CALCULATORS FOR THE CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (PSS).**

The Scope of Work is available beginning March 17, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950, Faxed requests maybe sent to 664-3791.

Bids should be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10-019"** containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office no later than **March 31, 2010 at 10:00 am.**, at which time, bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply Officer via fax # (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: robert.florian@pss.cnmi.mp

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA).

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation of Bid
PSS IFB 10-020

"Video and Related Equipment for Marianas High School (MHS)"

The Public School System and the, State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase of **Video and Related Equipment for Marianas High School**. The Scope of Work is available beginning March 24, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950. This is a re-announcement of IFB 09-040.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement Officer via fax at (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: **robert.florian@pss.cnmi.mp.**

Bids must be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10-020"** containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **April 6,2010, at 10:00 a.m.,** at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA).

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 70

Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A historic first step

The House vote Sunday to send a comprehensive health-care reform bill to President Obama's desk put the United States on a path toward universal health insurance, a goal that had eluded reformers since then-presidential candidate Teddy Roosevelt called for all workers to have coverage in 1912. It may prove to be the signal accomplishment of Obama's administration, even though the controversy surrounding it threatens to end his party's majority in Congress. Rarely has such a good thing for Americans been perceived by so many as a threat to their livelihood and liberty.

There's wide agreement in the healthcare industry and across the political spectrum that the system is in dire need of repair. But while liberals called for government to eliminate the insurance middleman and act as the single source of coverage, conservatives sought to reduce the government's presence in the market and give consumers more responsibility.

The measure that emerged from the Senate, HR 3590, pursues a course between those two extremes. It augments the existing system with a new marketplace for individuals and small groups to shop for insurance, a mandate that everyone buy coverage, insurance subsidies for the working class and rules limiting insurers' freedom to design, price and market their policies. It won't bring coverage to everyone — the Congressional Budget Office estimated that HR 3590 would leave about 6 percent of Americans uninsured in 10 years. But that's a significant improvement over the situation today, when an estimated 17 percent have no insurance and thousands lose their coverage daily.

Nevertheless, the notion of creating a new entitlement at a time of record-setting federal deficits infuriated opponents, whose relentless, hyperbolic attacks would have scuttled it had Obama not kept up the pressure to pass it. And the fight isn't over; it's just changed venue. This week, the Senate is expected to battle over the reconciliation bill, HR 4872, that the House passed to improve HR 3590. After that, the campaign against the overhaul will continue in the courts and at the ballot box.

We hope Congress keeps the reform moving forward, not backward. Although the measure attempts to improve the efficiency and quality of care, lawmakers will need to do more to restrain costs and provide more options for low-priced coverage. Nevertheless, the bill takes a big step toward solving the problems threatening the U.S. health-care system. The path to a sustainable health-care system is long and complex; Sunday's vote was a good start.

© 2010, Los Angeles Times

THE CBO REPORT and OTHER FAIRY TALES
©2010 THE AUGUSTA CHRONICLE 3/20
"...and the MASSIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL ACTUALLY REDUCED the DEFICIT and THEY ALL LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER. The END."

Consensus in our Covenant

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's *Opinion Section*

Young Republicans at my school in Dallas in the late '60s and early '70s were progressive thinkers compared to my Southern Democrat classmates. They were a minority then, as they are practically nonexistent now. Southern gentlemen and ladies of Texas have preempted the Eisenhower-Rockefeller-Romney GOP, conceded the Dems as smart donkeys, and one senses that most are ardent in dragging back the State to "remember the Alamo" defensiveness and *ante bellum* deluded bellicosity.

The recent U.S. Congress' historic passing of the Obama health care legislation was punctuated with a shout, initially reported as "baby killer," while noted anti-abortion congressman Stupak of Michigan was on the mike. Swift comparison to Wilson's "You lie!" during Obama's State of the Union address ensued, though the perpetuator came forward quickly to clarify that the outburst was a reference to the bill as "a baby killer," rather than a personal affront on the congressman.

The voting tally was a straightforward party line affair. A number of Democrats joined the GOP, which points to objections beyond just party affiliation. The whole Alabama delegation including Democrats voted "no," while the unruly tea party protest outside Capitol Hill reflected other congressional sentiments; they hurled homophobic and racial epithets, and red herring charges to arriving members of Congress. The objections against the intent of the health reform package were clearly outside the pale of the legislation in question. It also reflected the American penchant for denial and restrictions at governance beyond rugged individualism.

This raises the question of style and procedure of our deliberative process. Words the White House bandied about like "consensus," "collaboration," "cooperation," and even "reconciliation" early on last year had no apparent effect on the patent adversarial stubbornness, if not stupidity, that seems to dominate what used to be civil discourse.

Margaret Thatcher in 1981 said: *For me, pragmatism is not enough. Nor is that fashionable word "consensus."... To me consensus seems to be the process of abandoning all beliefs, principles, values and policies in search of something in which no one believes, but to which no one objects—the process of avoiding the very issues that have to be solved, merely because you cannot get agreement on the way ahead. What great cause would have been fought and won under the banner "I stand for consensus"?*

This derision of consensus-building and pragmatism, claimed to be the starting point of the current White House occupants, have led opponents to create the image of spineless leadership. A pugnacious spirit has evidently infused the GOP momentum to reclaim partisan political ascendancy, gaining heightened decibels since Obama moved into the White House, and gaining relevance in Brown's Massachusetts's victory. The GOP moved the nation rightward in the last 30 years, and blossoming into an Obstruct-Obama-campaign, the word "liberal" is no longer just an adjective; it has become a smear on the commonsense sanity and ideological integrity of the politician labeled with the word.

Happily, a few Democratic politicians are not taking the verbal pejoration sitting down, but disagreeable pugnacity on either side of the aisle begs the question of the type of deliberative process that may be attendant to a democratic form of government today and into the future. We push for the democratic process with the small "d" to move beyond the republican form of governance where electors act as consumer-voters to choose someone to make decisions for them. If island Democrats with the capital "D" has any remaining mojo to operationalize that perspective, we might encourage each of our citizens to get down-and-dirty to wrestle our time's economic, political and cultural realities to the ground. We might even rally behind Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan to take on that mantle, give the lower case "d" an upper case identity now that members of the Covenant and Republican Parties have declared their candidacies.

I had suggested previously that the choice of the word "covenant" to refer to our relationship as a Commonwealth in political union with the United States is apt for our purposes as a fledgling community of islands, in that, like the tradition of the Utt and the Pala-Pala, consensus-building was the mode for local decision-making. Similarly, as evidence in holy Writ, the relationship between YHWH and the Chosen People was never chiseled into granite, and was subject to alteration even with just the power of ardent supplication. Following our demographics loyalty to the Judeo-Christian-Muslim tradition of the Covenant of the Levant, we may even carry the content of that accord. It was specifically intended to build a community of justice, mercy and peace!

The word "consensus" proceeds from the word "consent," in this case, consent with sense. The creation of a common view is the intent of the Wiki process that has since enriched our understanding and broadened our perspective on a lot of things in the digitized media. Creation of this cyberspace resource involves the give-and-take of numerous participants in a wide-ranging scope of common sense issues that disagreements is subjected to open verification as well as the creation of a contextual umbrella large enough to contain seeming paradoxes. Might that we do the same with our deliberative procedures!

In the Covenant Debate Monday night, one of the proponents of the resolution to restrict voting to voters of NMI descent argued that the same principle needs to continue, but that the definition of "NMI descent" must be adjusted to the majority of the census reality of CNMI's demographics to be faithful to democratic ideals. That speaker was exercising the consensus process, whether labeled as such or not!

I will vote for a politician who will campaign with a firm stand

See CONSENSUS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

ATTENTION SAIPAN WRITERS, ARTISTS, MUSICIANS AND VIDEOGRAPHERS!

Hear ye the case for Createspace™

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT *Creating economic success for the CNMI*

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Here on Saipan, there are many talented writers, poets, singers, rappers, musicians, graphic artists, photographers and videographers who are eager to profit from their passions. I always advise such potential *passionpreneurs* to create products (or services) to convert that passion into some physical form, so they can share the fruits of their creativity profitably with the world. If you are among that group of aspiring creators, today's column will introduce you to a valuable resource that can help you turn your passion into profit!

In a previous article, "The Case for Self-Publishing, Walt's Way" [*Saipan Tribune*: Dec. 24, 2008], I made the case that it can be—and often is—more profitable to be a self-published, print-on-demand author/publisher than to be signed to a major publishing house.

Well, the game just a got a whole lot easier, and that game can be played by sellers of music and videos, too! Whether you are an individual, organization, church, school or business, what I'm about to share with you can help you easily and cost-effectively manufacture and sell your book, audio CD or video at a fraction of the cost, and a multiple of the profit of other options.

Createspace.com

As the self-published author of 16 books, I always have my eyes open for better, faster and more cost-effective strategies for maximizing profits on book sales. So, when a friend recommended I take a look at Createspace™, a relatively new option for print-on-demand publishing and fulfillment for books, audio CDs and videos, I was open, even though I was happy with my then current printer.

Createspace™ is a print-on-demand, or short-run printer, which was purchased by Amazon in 2007. Here are some of the benefits I found in my investigation:

Higher profits on Amazon.com sales

The main reason I got very excited about Createspace™ was that I saw it would significantly boost profits on sales through the Amazon.com Web site. Let me explain.

Since Amazon.com is where an ever-increasing number of people go to purchase books, CDs and videos, the independent writer/artist needs to have a presence on that site. However, as many of us independent publishers know, sales of a single copy of our book through Amazon's Advantage® program is often a "loss leader." In other words, many of us agree to lose money on single copy sales, hoping that orders will increase with the popularity of the book. Let me give you an example. (These are actual numbers)

Let's say your book sells for $14.95 retail. When Amazon orders a single copy of your book for their inventory, they—like most wholesalers—will pay you 45 percent of the retail, that's $6.73.

Now, the printing cost for your $14.95 book (let's assume a page count of 200 pages) might be about $3.85. Some printers may charge an additional per-book "set-up" charge of, say, $1.50 and shipping charge of about $3.79. Therefore, the total cost to manufacture *and* ship your book to Amazon for them to sell to their customer is $9.14. In other words, you would spend $9.14 and earn only $6.73. In still other words, you *lose* $2.41!

In such a scenario, however, you would break even if Amazon ordered two copies, and you would finally start to make a *profit* if they ordered three copies or more—and they would if you asked them to—but that profit would be very small.

Now, however, with Createspace™ doing the printing and automatic fulfillment for Amazon orders (remember, they are essentially now the same company), it's like having Amazon print and fulfill the book orders through their site. You can now make a per copy "royalty" of $5.77! (You can visit the site and crunch the numbers yourself) So, *now*, on an order of a single copy of your title, you can go from *losing* $2.41 to *earning* $5.77!

But, that's not all. There are other benefits as well.

No need to manually fulfill Amazon Advantage® orders: With Createspace™ automatically fulfilling orders for Amazon sales, you can free up more of your time to focus on promoting your book, CD or video.

No more "Out of Stock" notices on your title: With Createspace doing the fulfillment, your title is always "In Stock." Before, if there happened to be zero copies in Amazon's inventory, a customer might place an order (provided they didn't get turned off by seeing "out of stock" in the listing), Amazon would notify you, then you'd have to print and send the order to Amazon's warehouse, which would then send the order to the customer. Now, it all happens seamlessly without your involvement.

Lower shipping costs for you and your customers: Being part of Amazon's distribution system, Createspace can offer lower shipping costs for you and your customers.

Zero ($0) proof cost for CDs: As of this writing, you can upload the MP3 files and graphics for your CD, and have a proof (CD, jewel case, inserts and printing on the CD) sent to you in a few days at absolutely no charge! It's a special promotion the duration of which has not been specified. So, now, all you Saipan singers have absolutely no excuse for not releasing your music! It's practically free!

Fast review process: After submitting a title for publishing or duplication, the review process to approve the submission is amazingly fast! I often upload a PDF or mp3 file and get a response the same day!

Seamless transition from Advantage®: If you're already self-published and part of the Advantage® program, the transition from Advantage® to Createspace™ is fast and seamless.

Richer color. Thicker feel: It could simply be normal variations in printers, but the color of the CreateSpace™ edition of the books I've since printed is darker and richer than before. For the book printing, the paper being used is also a bit thicker. The CDs are beautifully printed, and professionally duplicated. Your customers will be happy.

And…get ready…they ship to Saipan!...on time! Createspace™ ships to Saipan for the same shipping cost as anywhere in the continental US—*and*, they do it rather quickly! The books, CDs and videos show up exactly when (and sometimes before) they estimate they will. Those of us who live way out here on this Pacific island have become accustomed to delays in shipping. This is like icing on the cake!

No more excuses! The main advantage of print-on-demand printers, as the name implies, is that you no longer have to print 500 or 1,000 copies of your book, CD or video in order to get a good unit cost. For roughly the same cost, you can now print individual copies whenever there is a demand. Again, no more excuses!

It makes sense! This move makes sense for a self-published author, musician, producer, for a few good reasons.

First, people are going to order from Amazon anyway. Since launching my business on the Web in 1997, I've noticed that when it comes to book purchases, people are opting to go to Amazon, rather than order directly from my individual publisher sites. In fact, prospective customers will even visit my site, get the information they need, then order from Amazon. So, if that's going to happen anyway, then it makes sense to maximize the profit from the Amazon sales channel, and have Amazon (through Createspace™) print and deliver the orders *their* customers are purchasing.

Second, for self-published authors who don't have the resources to print thousands of copies of your book, CD or video, it makes sense to (essentially) have Amazon print and deliver the products that *your* customers are ordering, too. As a print-on-demand company, they will manufacturer just the number you wish to have on hand in order to fulfill local orders. You simply log in to your Creatspace™ account, print the number of copies you wish, and instruct Createspace™ to send them to you or your customers anywhere in the world.

Just for Saipan

So, what does that mean for us here on Saipan? Well, with the barriers to entry and production practically eliminated, bloggers who finally want to put their thoughts into book or audiobook form, videographers with fantastic scuba diving or tourist-friendly images of Saipan to share with the world, singers with music in their hearts, writers with stories of the ups and downs of life in paradise to tell, charity groups, volunteer organizations, schools and churches seeking ways to raise funds can all use Createspace™ to encourage creativity and create products to sell to increase streams of income and have something tangible to share with the world. And who knows what good things all this might lead to with more books, CDs and videos *from*, *for*, and *about* Saipan, Tinian and Rota circulating in the market?

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 16 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com and follow Walt on Twitter (waltonsaipan).

A political status and a way of life

By GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Editor: Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan wrote the following message regarding Commonwealth Covenant Day.

Thirty-four years—a generation—of the political relationship between the people of the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States of America is always reason for celebration. We celebrate every March 24th as the date upon which that political relationship was established in that document we fondly call a Covenant.

There is also reason for reflection on this day. We reflect and look at the many opportunities that have opened up for our people and our advancement as a community. Yes, there has been and there always will be issues of contention, but this is to be expected in any political relationship.

But, generally, no one can dispute with reason that the political relationship that we have under the Covenant has and will continue to be fundamental to the political, social and economic development or our people and islands. And this is a good reason to celebrate.

It is also on this date that we remember and give tribute to those among our people who brought us this agreement. And so we give tribute to Messrs. Edward DLG. Pangelinan, Vicente N. Santos, Juan LG. Cabrera, Vicente T. Camacho, Jose R. Cruz, Bernard V. Hofschneider, Benjamin T. Manglona, Daniel T. Muna, Dr. Francisco T. Palacios, Joaquin I. Pangelinan, Manuel A. Sablan, Joannes B. Taimanao, and Pedro A. Tenorio for their hard work and their leadership in negotiating the best possible agreement for all of us. We also give tribute to Congressman Phillip Burton and Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams for carrying out the negotiations and the Covenant's approval by the United States Congress and President Ford.

But so that we do not forget, we must recognize that this was an agreement between a people and a government. The people of the Northern Mariana Islands deserve a huge credit for approving the agreement in a plebiscite and then embracing the political status as a way of life.

A generation of citizens, those born in 1976 when the agreement took effect, are now 33 years old. They have experienced no other political status besides Commonwealth. They have benefited from this status and must, therefore, continue to help improve our communities so that the generation to come 33 years from now can see that the advancement we make in the next three decades move us forward at a pace that is even greater than the past 33 years.

This is what our community should be. This is what we owe ourselves. This is what we owe our future generations. This is our way of life. This is the very essence of the Covenant.

I will continue to do my part here in Congress. And so that both the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States continue to recognize the importance we all place in our political relationship, I will request that the flag of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands be flown and displayed atop the United States Capitol on every Commonwealth-Covenant Day beginning in 2011.

Congratulations Northern Mariana Islands.

Happy Covenant and Commonwealth Day to each and every one of you.

CONSENSUS

From Page 10

on consensus-building, where the candidate's election is a matter of sharing collaborative dreams of rights that we can affirm rather than privilege rights we fight for, where I go to the polls to choose not what I can get but for what candidates can lead me to give. I am a democrat, willing to inject my being into human history. Fellow travelers may now come out of the woodwork.

It is time to renew our covenant; time to recover our tradition of consensus that we may collaborate, cooperate, and together, celebrate!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼75
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲89	▼79
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼81
Majuro	Showers	▲84	▼80

Around The Globe

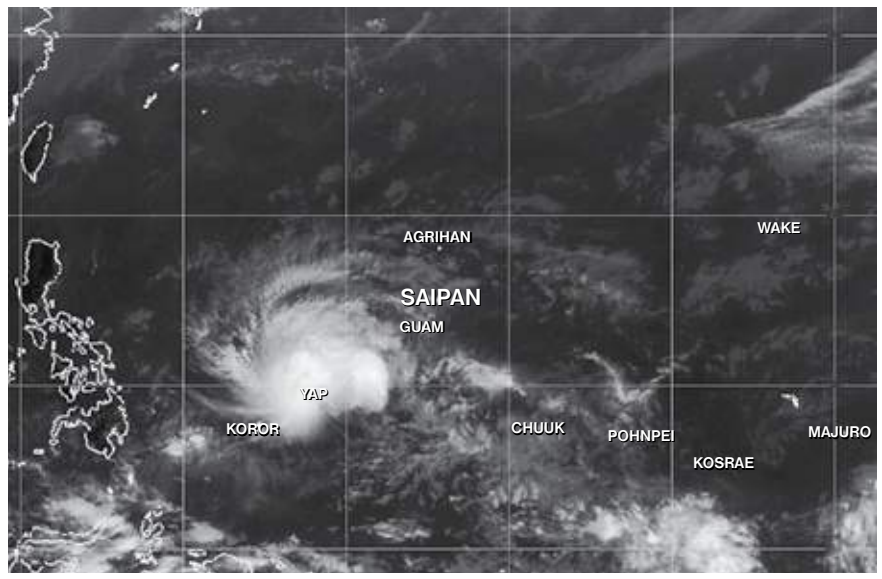
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼56
Beijing	Cloudy	▲50	▼28
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲82	▼61
Honolulu	Showers	▲79	▼70
London	Rain	▲57	▼45
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲74	▼54
Manila	Rain	▲84	▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲74	▼55
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲78	▼65
New York	Cloudy	▲58	▼43
Osaka	Rain	▲52	▼46
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼52
Pusan	Showers	▲51	▼39
Rome	Sunny	▲67	▼50
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲63	▼44
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲62	▼48
Seoul	Cloudy	▲54	▼32
Tokyo	Rain	▲45	▼39
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼42

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:22 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
7:59 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
12:42 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:46 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm 02W is centered near Yap at 10N139E with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between 8N and 14N from 135E to 143E. For more information on Tropical Storm 02W, see the public advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and the bulletins issued by JTWC under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. Low-level convergence east and southeast of 02W is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Guam within 50 miles of a line from 11N149E to 9N153E and scattered showers southwest of Chuuk within 125 miles of a line from 7N148E to 4N155E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Kosrae near the equator south of a line from 3N156E to 2N165E and across Butaritari atoll south of 5N from 170E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:36 PM	1:03 AM
Thursday	1:38 PM	1:58 AM
Friday	2:40 PM	2:49 AM
Saturday	3:40 PM	3:38 AM
Sunday	4:40 PM	4:23 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 23, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

DL638	8:00am	10:55am	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:50am	8:40am	Daily
DL638/288	8:00am	1:40pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL297	4:35pm	7:30pm	Daily
DL289	4:50pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/933	3:15pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
OZ606/703	3:20pm	10:55pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

DL641	9:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
DL298	10:15am	2:45pm	Daily
DL287/641	5:50pm	1:35am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL288	9:00pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Focus

Guam buildup plan raises anger, infra concerns

By BLAINE HARDEN
WASHINGTON POST FOREIGN SERVICE

Air traffic controller Staff Sgt. Lawrence Goltiao monitors activity from the tower at Andersen Air Force base in Guam. JOSE MORE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

HAGATNA, GUAM—This remote Pacific island is home to U.S. citizens who are fervent supporters of the military, as measured by their record of fighting and dying in America's recent wars.

But they are angry about a major military buildup here, which the government of Guam and many residents say is being grossly underfunded. They fear that the construction of a new Marine Corps base will overwhelm the island's already inadequate water and sewage systems, as well as its port, power grid, hospital, highways and social services.

"Our nation knows how to find us when it comes to war and fighting for war," said Michael W. Cruz, lieutenant governor of Guam and an Army National Guard colonel who recently returned from a four-month tour as a surgeon in Afghanistan. "But when it comes to war preparations—which is what the military buildup essentially is—nobody seems to know where Guam is."

The federal government has given powerful reasons to worry to the 180,000 residents of Guam, a balmy tropical island whose military importance derives from its location as by far the closest U.S. territory to China and North Korea.

The Environmental Protection Agency said last month that the military buildup, as described in Pentagon documents, could trigger island-wide water shortages that would "fall disproportionately on a low income medically underserved population." It also said the buildup would overload sewage-treatment systems in a way that "may result in significant adverse public health impacts."

A report by the Government Accountability Office last year came to similar conclusions, saying the buildup would "substantially" tax Guam's infrastructure.

President Obama had planned to visit Guam on Monday as the brief first stop of an Asia trip, but he delayed his travel because of Sunday's health-care vote in the House. Obama is aware of the problems here and had planned to promise some federal help, White House officials said.

"We're trying to identify and understand the current conditions on Guam and the potential impact of the relocation," said Nancy Sutley, head of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, who on Tuesday will lead a delegation to the island. "There's no question that the environmental conditions on Guam are not ideal."

Besides a new Marine base and airfield, the buildup includes port dredging for a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, a project that would cause what the EPA describes as an "unacceptable" impact on 71 acres of a vibrant coral reef. The military, which owns 27 percent of the island, also wants to build a Marine firing range on land that includes one of the last undeveloped beachfront forests on Guam.

'Should not proceed'

In a highly unusual move, the EPA graded the buildup plan as "environmentally unsatisfactory" and said it "should not proceed as proposed."

"The government of Guam and the Guam Waterworks cannot by themselves accommodate the military expansion," said Nancy Woo, associate director of the EPA's western regional water division. She said Guam would need about $550 million to upgrade its water and sewage systems. White House officials said the EPA findings are preliminary.

Guam government officials put the total direct and indirect costs of coping with the buildup at about $3 billion, including $1.7 billion to improve roads and $100 million to expand the already overburdened public hospital. On this island—where a third of the population receives food stamps and about 25 percent lives below the U.S. poverty level—that price tag cannot be paid with local tax revenue.

"It is not possible and it is not fair that the island bear the cost," Woo said.

At the peak of construction, the buildup would increase Guam's population by 79,000 people, or about 45 percent. The EPA said the military plans, so far, to pay for public services for about 23,000 of the new arrivals, mostly Marines and their dependents who are relocating from the Japanese island of Okinawa. Ceded to the United States by Spain in 1898, Guam is a U.S. territory. Its residents are American citizens, but they cannot vote in presidential elections and have no voting representative in Congress.

The Marine Corps is sensing a populist backlash on Guam, which is three times the size of the District of Columbia and more than 6,000 miles west of Los Angeles.

"I see a rising level of concern about how we are going to manage this," Lt. Gen. Keith J. Stalder, the Hawaii-based commander of Marine forces in the Pacific, said in a telephone interview. "I think it is becoming clearer every day that they need outside assistance."

The White House said Obama included $750 million in his budget to address the civilian impact of the relocation and has asked Congress for $1 billion next year, but Guam officials say they have received no assurances from the federal government that the money is headed their way.

No input in decision

Guam was not consulted in the decision to move 8,000 Marines—about half those based in Okinawa—to the island. The $13 billion move was negotiated in 2006 between the Bush administration and a previous Japanese government, with Japan paying about $6 billion of the non-civilian cost, as a way of reducing the large U.S. military footprint in Okinawa.

But in the past year, with new leadership in Tokyo, the Japanese role in the move has become complicated. Anti-military sentiment is growing in Okinawa; Japan's new leaders have yet to decide if they will allow a Marine air station to remain anywhere in the country. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates has expressed irritation with Japan, even as the Pentagon presses ahead with its plan to shift the Marines to Guam by 2014.

The government of Guam and most of its residents initially welcomed the buildup. It was viewed as good for business, and the military enjoys deep respect here. Many families have members serving in the armed forces; among the 50 states and four territories, this island regularly ranks first in recruiting success. Guam's killed-in-action rate is about four times as high as on the mainland.

Guam is the only American soil with a sizable population to have been occupied by a foreign military power. During World War II, the Japanese held the island for 2 1/2 brutal years, building concentration camps and forcing the indigenous Chamorro people to provide slave labor and sex. Beheadings were common.

Led by the Marines, American forces liberated the island in 1944, and people here say they still feel a debt to the United States. To repay it, they proudly call their island the "tip of the spear" for projecting U.S. military power in the Far East. Guam already has Navy and Air Force bases that can handle many of the most potent weapons in the U.S. arsenal. Nuclear-powered attack submarines, F-22 fighter jets and B-2 stealth bombers frequent the island, which will soon be protected by its own anti-missile system.

"We don't mind being the tip of spear, but we don't want to get the shaft," said Simon A. Sanchez II, chairman of Guam's commission on public utilities. "We have been asking for help from Day One, but we have not got any meaningful appropriations."

'Not being listened to'

The governor of Guam, Felix Camacho, asked the military last month to slow down the deployment of Marines until sufficient federal money arrives. But as a territory, and without a vote in Congress, the island has negligible lobbying power and no legal means of halting the buildup.

Many residents have hoped that Obama—a fellow Pacific islander, who was born in Hawaii and lived in Indonesia—might understand their anxieties and unlock federal resources. The White House said Obama will visit Guam when his Asia trip is rescheduled, perhaps in June.

"I just want to remind President Obama that his story is our story," said Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero, an English instructor at the University of Guam and a leader of a group opposing the buildup. She said her students read Obama's autobiography, "Dreams From My Father," focusing on a coming-of-age passage from his years in Hawaii, in which he describes his realization that he was "utterly alone."

"That's how we feel here," she said. "We feel like we are not being listened to, like we are not being respected."

The federal government's push to further militarize this island—combined with its heel-dragging in paying for the impact on civilians—has led many Guam residents to doubt the value of their relationship with the United States.

"This is old-school colonialism all over again," said LisaLinda Natividad, an assistant professor of social work at the University of Guam and an activist opposing the buildup. "It boils down to our political status—we are occupied territory."

Staff writer Michael D. Shear in Washington contributed to this report.

Island Snapshots

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Marshals, Juvenile Probation officers, Adult Probation officers and Parole officers have their picture taken with Taser master instructor Hans Marrero, seated fourth from right, after receiving their certification as Taser instructors. This first ever Taser Training Instructor certification class was held last week at the Aqua Resort Club.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Taser master instructor Hans Marrero demonstrates to Juvenile Probation officer Syl Ada and Parole officer Mel Sakisat the proper way of using a Taser.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Top, Parole, Adult Probation and Juvenile Probation officers, along with CNMI Marshals, aim their Tasers at Juvenile Probation supervisor Syl Ada during a recent Taser Instructor Training held last week at the Aqua Resort Club.

OMNIBUS IMMIGRATION LAW

Left, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, seated second from left, signs House Bill 17-25, HS1, an omnibus immigration bill asserting CNMI control over nonresident workers, into Public Law 17-1, as lawmakers, Department of Labor and other officials look on Monday afternoon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INVESTING IN TRAINING WEALTH GUARDIANS

Atalanta Sosnoff senior vice president James Staub, left, hands over a sponsorship check of $15, 000 to Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies executive director Daniel A. Roland as a contribution for the upcoming 10th Pacific Region Investment Conference, to be held in Manila, the Philippines on Oct. 14 and 15, 2010. Atalanta Sosnoff, an independent registered investment advisor with over 30 years of experience handling over $7.5 billion worth of funds under management, supports APAFS in its mission to raise the standards of corporate ethics and fund management duties specifically among fiduciaries in the globe.

CELEBRITY BAGGING

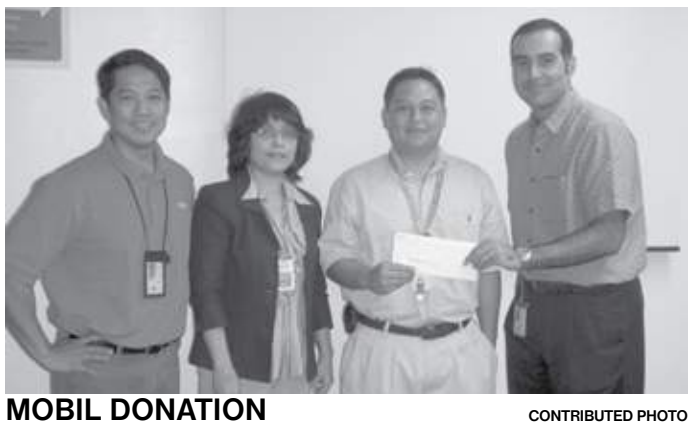
Students from the Upward Bound program gather around a Triple J Superfresh employee to learn about working at a grocery store. The students from the Upward Bound program, which is a federally funded program under TRiO that aims to assist high school students enter and succeed in college, participated in "celebrity bagging" as part of the celebration of National TRiO Day. The students bagged groceries, stocked items, and assisted customers to take part in the volunteerism spirit of the celebration.

NMC

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Rocco and Blaze Flores! Rocco will be celebrating his special day today, March 24, while Blaze will have his on April 3. Wishing you all the best on your special day, with prayers and wishes for more birthdays to come. We love you both so much! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, and Juden.

LJ GUERRERO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MOBIL DONATION

Mobil Oil Mariana donates $2,000 to support the American Red Cross with this year 24th Annual Walkathon. In pictures are Anthony Wenceslao, field operations manager (CNMI) for Mobil Oil Mariana; Lou Johnson, Red Cross board member; JD Tenorio, Emergency Services director; and Gennaro Cioffi, president and country manager of Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc.

Business

China accuses Google of violating promises

A man walks past flowers placed by a Chinese journalist outside the Google China headquarters in Beijing, China, Tuesday, March 23, 2010. AP

BEIJING (AP)—China reacted quickly Tuesday to Google Inc.'s decision to stop censoring the Internet for China by shifting its search engine off the mainland, saying it is "totally wrong" and accusing the company of violating promises.

Google said Jan. 12 it would pull out part of its service if it had to keep censoring Internet results. Visitors to Google's old service for China, Google.cn, are now being redirected to the Chinese-language service based in Hong Kong, where Google does not censor searches.

"Google has violated its written promise it made when entering the Chinese market by stopping filtering its searching service and blaming China in insinuation for alleged hacker attacks," the official Xinhua News Agency quoted an official in a statement issued just hours after Google's announcement.

"This is totally wrong. We're uncompromisingly opposed to the politicization of commercial issues, and express our discontent and indignation to Google for its unreasonable accusations and conducts," the unnamed official said.

The Hong Kong page heralded the shift Monday. "Welcome to Google Search in China's new home." The site also began displaying search results in the simplified Chinese characters used in mainland China.

But the results can't all be accessed inside China, because government filters restrict the links that can be clicked by mainland audiences.

The official quoted from the State Council, or Cabinet, said the government talked to Google twice to try to resolve the standoff.

Bill aims to speed up air traffic system overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP)—Transforming the nation's air traffic system by replacing World War II-era radar with 21st century GPS technology would be accelerated under a bill approved Monday by the Senate.

The $34.5 billion bill funds the Federal Aviation Administration through Sept. 30, 2011. It also addresses a series of safety concerns raised by the crash of a regional airliner last year near Buffalo, N.Y., that killed 50 people.

The centerpiece of the bill calls for key elements of the FAA's NextGen program to be in place at the busiest American airports by 2014. The system won't be fully in place for noncommercial aircraft until after 2020.

The nation's antiquated air traffic control system is a major source of airline delays.

The new system is projected to cost the FAA as much as $22 billion through 2025. Airlines would have to spend as much as $20 billion more to install equipment in their planes.

In the long term, the system is expected to save airlines money by allowing planes in crowded air corridors to take more direct routes and fly closer to each other without safety risks, reducing delays, saving energy and cutting down on pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions. Pilots will have real time information on the location of other aircraft.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Carrier jet takes Virgin rocket aloft for 1st time

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Virgin Galactic's fledgling space tourism rocket was taken aloft over the California desert on an inaugural test flight Monday attached to the wing of its mothership, the company said. The captive-carry test marked the start of a test program for SpaceShipTwo that will progress to free flights as a glider and then under rocket power, Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic said in a statement. Throughout the 2-hour, 54-minute test, the spaceship remained slung beneath the middle of the wing of its unique twin-fuselage carrier aircraft, the WhiteKnightTwo. The pair achieved an altitude of 45,000 feet before returning to the Mojave Air and Space Port, which is 70 miles north of Los Angeles, the company said.

NY police agree driver error caused Prius crash

HARRISON, N.Y. (AP)—A housekeeper who reported that her boss' Toyota Prius accelerated on its own and wouldn't brake as she hurtled toward a stone wall apparently had her foot on the gas pedal the entire time, according to a police investigation that concluded the driver, not the car, caused the accident. The March 9 crash in a suburban New York driveway came the day after a driver in San Diego reported that the gas pedal got stuck on his 2008 Prius, resulting in a wild 94 mph ride on a Southern California freeway. The two accidents raised new questions about Toyota's accelerators. The company had already recalled more than 8 million cars over gas pedals that could become stuck or be held down by floor mats.

Delta, US Airways alter slot swap deal

ATLANTA (AP)—Delta Air lines and US Airways are seeking a compromise of sorts with the Department of Transportation in their effort to swap takeoff and landing slots at airports in New York and Washington. They have agreed to give 12 percent of the slots they wanted to exchange with each other to four other airlines to help preserve competition. The government said last month that Delta and US Airways could swap slots at the two airports, but they would have to sell some. Delta and US Airways are challenging that requirement. They said they will not go forward with the swap if the original transaction, as modified Monday, is not approved.

Nation

Health care gains start soon—bigger ones later

WASHINGTON (AP)—The first changes under the new health care law will be easy to see and not long in coming: There'll be $250 rebate checks for seniors in the Medicare drug coverage gap, and young adults moving from college to work will be able to stay on their parents' plans until they turn 26.

But the peace of mind the president promised—the antidote for health care insecurity, whether you favored or opposed his overhaul—is still a ways beyond the horizon, starting only in 2014. Insurers then will be barred from turning down people with medical problems, and the government will provide tax credits to help millions of working families buy coverage they can't afford now.

Health care overhaul will bring real change, but it's going to happen slowly.

President Barack Obama plans to sign the main legislation Tuesday in the White House East Room after a bitterly divided House approved it Sunday night. That will cap a turbulent, yearlong quest by the president and congressional Democrats to remake the nation's health care system, fully one-sixth of the U.S. economy.

Obama's signature will start the Senate considering a package of changes the House also has approved. But the main overhaul will already be officially on the books.

Still, if Obama wants to actually preside over the expansion of coverage to more than 30 million people, he'll first have to persuade a majority of Americans to re-elect him in 2012.

"For people who have the greatest need, a number of things will start quickly and make a difference," said DeAnn Friedholm of Consumers Union. For others, 2014 may seem like a long way away. "Some people may be frustrated that it's going to be several years, but that is the reality of what it takes to make these significant changes," she added.

The main reason that Obama's plan phases in slowly boils down to cost. The Medicare cuts and tax increases to finance the bill start early; the subsidies to help people purchase coverage come later. That combination keeps the cost of the overhaul under $1 trillion in its first decade, as Obama promised. Republicans call it an accounting gimmick—but in past years they also resorted to it.

Here's a look at some of the major impacts for consumers:

COMING SOON:

Roughly a third of people in their 20s are uninsured, so allowing young adults to remain on their parents' plans until 26 would be a significant new option for families.

Adult children would not be able to stay on a parental plan if they had access to employer coverage of their own. But they could get married and still be covered. (Grandkids, however, would not qualify.) Regulations will clarify to what degree young adults have to be financially dependent on their parents.

Other reforms starting this year would prevent insurers from canceling the policies of people who get sick, from denying coverage to children with medical problems, and from putting lifetime dollar limits on a policy.

These changes will spread risks more broadly, but they're also likely to nudge insurance premiums somewhat higher.

Obama's plan also includes an important new program for the most vulnerable: uninsured people who can't get coverage because of major medical problems. It's intended to provide an umbrella of protection until the broad expansion of coverage takes effect in 2014.

The government will pump money into high-risk insurance pools in the states, making coverage available for people in frail health who have been uninsured for at least six months. The premiums could still be a stretch, but for people who need continuing medical attention, it could make a dramatic difference.

"For people who have not been able to get anything, who have expensive chronic illnesses or other conditions, it could be a lifesaver," said Friedholm.

There is a catch, however. The $5 billion Obama has allocated for the program is unlikely to last until 2014. In fact, government experts have projected it could run out next year.

Among seniors, the plan will create both winners and losers. On the plus side, it gradually closes the dreaded "doughnut hole" prescription coverage gap, improves preventive care and puts a new emphasis on trying to keep seniors struggling with chronic diseases in better overall health.

But it also cuts funding for popular private insurance plans offered through the Medicare Advantage program. About one-quarter of seniors have signed up for the plans, which generally offer lower out-of-pocket costs. That's been possible because the government pays the plans about 13 percent more than it costs to cover seniors in traditional Medicare. As the payments are scaled back, it could trigger an exodus from Medicare Advantage.

"It's not all black and white; sometimes it's gray," said James Firman, president of the National Council on the Aging. "Overall we think this plan is very good, and will provide some significant benefits for seniors. There will be some pain among some people in Medicare Advantage plans."

The prescription coverage gap will be totally closed in 2020. At that point, seniors will be responsible for 25 percent of the cost of their medications until Medicare's catastrophic coverage kicks in, dropping their copayments to 5 percent.

COMING LATER:

The real transformation of America's health insurance system won't take place until 2014.

Four breathtaking changes will happen simultaneously:

- Insurers will be required to take all applicants. They won't be able to turn down people in poor health, or charge them more.
- States will set up new insurance supermarkets for small businesses and people buying their own coverage, pooling together to get the kind of purchasing clout government workers have now.
- Most Americans will be required to carry health insurance, either through an employer, a government program or by buying their own. Those who refuse will face fines from the IRS.
- Tax credits to help pay for premiums will start flowing to middle-class working families, and Medicaid will be expanded to cover more low income people. Households making up to four times the poverty level - about $88,000 for a family of four- will be eligible for assistance. But the most generous aid—including help with copayments and deductibles—will be for those on the lower-to-middle rungs of the income scale.

When all is said and done, the majority of working-age Americans and their families will still have employer-sponsored coverage, as they do now. But the number of uninsured will drop by more than half. Illegal immigrants would account for more than one-third of the remaining 23 million people without coverage.

Cost could be the Achilles' heel of the whole effort.

"I hope it is not repealed, because we do need to extend coverage to most of our population," said Gail Wilensky, who ran Medicare for President George H.W. Bush and remains a leading health care adviser to Republicans. "But it could well be substantially modified. It expands coverage, but it does very little to take on two other major issues: improving quality and leveling the rate of growth in spending."

Asia

Kidnapping reflects fears of Pakistan minorities

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Five Sikh men who fled their hometown on the Afghan border were making a quick trip back home when masked men blocked their way with a pickup on a mountain road not far from the Khyber Pass.

There were no houses, no buildings, no other cars in sight. The kidnappers covered their faces with black scarves and carried machine-guns.

Surjeet Singh had just wanted to check on the small grocery store he had left behind in Dabori, the Pakistani town he fled a year ago when it was overrun with Taliban fighters and the government launched a bombing campaign against them. In an area torn by Islamist violence, it had quickly become a dangerous place for a non-Muslim.

Singh and the four friends traveling with him that day all wore the carefully wrapped turbans that made their Sikh religion clear.

They were going back to pick up money they were owed, or to check on their businesses. They had called

AP

In this photo made on March 19, 2010, Surjeet Singh, from Pakistan's Sikh community, kisses his son after his release in Peshawar, Pakistan. Singh, who had been kidnapped for ransom by alleged militants, was freed after 42 days as a result of a crackdown operation by security forces.

friends ahead of time to check on the situation. They thought a quick trip would be safe.

"We were born there. We grew up there," said Singh, who today is recovering from a bullet wound in a small apartment in a crowded maze-like neighborhood of Peshawar, the largest city in Pakistan's northwest. "Our forefathers had been there for hundreds of years. We have houses, shops, land."

In today's Pakistan, though, that is not enough.

In a country beset by a powerful Islamist insurgency, where suicide bombings are commonplace and government offensives widely dismissed as ineffective, anyone can become a victim. But for the nation's minorities—its small communities of Hindus, Christians and Sikhs—life is particularly precarious. Thousands have fled their villages, crowding into urban slums. Thousands more have fled the country.

"With the rise in militancy in our society in general, and in the northwest in particular, minorities are feeling more threatened," said I.A. Rehman, a senior official with Pakistan's Human Rights Commission. He noted many Sikhs have been driven from their homes, and those who remain are now often forced to pay militants a "jizya"—a traditional tax for non-Muslim.

Opposition to sue Myanmar junta over election laws

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Aung San Suu Kyi's political party will file a lawsuit against Myanmar's ruling military government Tuesday seeking to revoke laws that bar the detained democracy leader and other opposition members from taking part in the country's first elections in two decades.

The junta enacted five election-related laws earlier this month that set out rules for this year's vote. One law prohibits anyone convicted of a crime from being a member of a political party and instructs parties to expel convicted members or face de-registration.

The National League for Democracy's general secretary and one of its founders, Suu Kyi was convicted last year on charges of violating her house arrest when an American man swam uninvited to her lakeside property. She is serving an 18-month term of house arrest and many top members of her party and ethnic-based parties are in prison. Under the new laws they would be barred from the vote.

Nyan Win, spokesman for the NLD, said the party would file a lawsuit against the ruling State Peace and Development Council at the High Court.

"We are taking the legal step against the electoral laws as they are unfair and the laws are a violation of human rights, personal rights and organizational rights," he said.

The polls will be the first since 1990, when Suu Kyi's party won a landslide victory. The junta ignored the results of that vote and has kept the Nobel Peace laureate jailed or under detention for 14 of the past 20 years.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US doctor on trial in Australian patient deaths

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—An American doctor charged in the deaths of three patients wrongly removed a man's bowel, dooming him to a life of pain and dependence on a colostomy bag, an Australian prosecutor said Tuesday. Jayant Patel, 59, is being tried on three manslaughter charges and one count of grievous bodily harm related to four patients he treated while working as director of surgery between 2003 and 2005 at a state-run hospital in Bundaberg, a sugar industry town 230 miles (370 kilometers) north of Brisbane in Queensland state. Patel is accused of performing unnecessary, sloppy or antiquated operations. Prosecutor Ross Martin told jurors in Brisbane Supreme Court on Tuesday that Patel insisted on removing the bowel of Ian Rodney Vowles, even though growths discovered on the man's intestine were found to be non-cancerous. The doctor told Vowles he couldn't be sure there was no cancer elsewhere in the region, and therefore needed to remove the bowel, Martin said.

China's sandstorms blast Beijing with dust, sand

BEIJING (AP)—The dust works its way through keyholes and window frames, and smells like a filthy brew of dirt, smoke and metallic particles. The sky turns magenta and whole buildings disappear. Eyes tear up and throats get sore from coughing. Northern China's spring sandstorms blew in with particular ferocity over the weekend, bringing misery to people working outdoors Monday in Beijing and across a wide swath of the country. "It gets in your throat, under your clothes, in your bed," said Beijing street sweeper Xue Yuan. "I hate it, but there's really nothing you can do."

Man stabs and kills 8 students in eastern China

BEIJING (AP)—A former doctor armed with a large knife killed eight children and injured five others Tuesday at an elementary school in eastern China, a local official said. The assailant was arrested after the 7:20 a.m. attack, Xinhua News Agency said. He is a former community clinic doctor with a history of mental health problems, said a man surnamed Wu in the Nanping city government office, who would not give his full name as is common among Chinese officials. Eight children from Nanping City Experimental Elementary School were killed, and five were being treated at a hospital, Wu said. Six died at the scene. The attacker, who is 41 or 42, had resigned from his post at the community clinic, Wu said, but he wasn't sure when.

World

Presidents Bush, Clinton visit devastated Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Former Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton clasped hands with residents of one of Haiti's massive tent cities Monday on a tour of its quake-devastated capital—a visit intended to remind donors of the immense needs facing the recovery effort.

The two former leaders, who were tapped by President Barack Obama to spearhead U.S. fundraising for the crisis, made their first joint visit to Haiti. They spotlighted the dramatic need for help ahead of a critical March 31 U.N. donors conference in New York where Haitian officials will ask for $11.5 billion in reconstruction help.

At a news conference with President Rene Preval on the grounds of the collapsed national palace, Bush said he was struck by the devastation caused by the Jan. 12 earthquake.

"It's one thing to see it on TV, it's another to see it firsthand," said Bush, who was making his first visit to Haiti. "Hopefully our visit will remind people that Haiti needs help."

Clinton and Bush later greeted quake survivors camped on the Champ de Mars, the national mall filled with 60,000 homeless people. Secret Service agents and Haitian police surrounded the men as they waded into a fenced-in section of the mall where dozens of families have pitched blue, orange and silver tarps.

While many of the homeless welcomed the visit as a sign that the U.S. would continue to supply aid, some said they were disappointed the presidents did not bring anything more tangible.

Clinton, Netanyahu show clashing Jerusalem views

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu presented dueling positions on Jerusalem construction Monday, underlining a recent spat between the allies while simultaneously suggesting the incident is behind them.

Israel recently announced new housing plans for east Jerusalem, the part of the city Palestinians want for a future capital, drawing unusually sharp criticism from the Obama administration. Clinton renewed that disapproval on Monday, telling a pro-Israel audience that provocative Israeli land policies in areas claimed by the Palestinians are not in Israel's long-term interests and undermine U.S. credibility as a mediator.

Speaking later in the day to a crowd of nearly 8,000 pro-Israel activists at the same forum, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, including hundreds of congressmen and senators, Netanyahu did not budge from his position that building anywhere in Jerusalem is an Israeli right.

But at the same time both sides appeared to be indicating that while differences may remain, the spat—unique in recent memory for its harsh rhetoric and public nature—should not be allowed to further mar ties or delay the launch of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

The spread of Jewish homes on land claimed by the Palestinians threatens the Obama administration's first attempts at shuttle diplomacy intended to establish an independent Palestinian state, Clinton said in her speech, and makes it hard for the United States to be an honest broker.

Sudan prez threatens to expel election observers

CAIRO (AP)—Sudan's president threatened Monday to expel foreign observers over their recommendations to delay the country's first multiparty elections in decades due in April.

The April vote—Sudan's first multiparty elections in decades—will see voters cast ballots for a national president, a southern president, local and national assemblies as well as governors.

President Omar al-Bashir, indicted by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity in Darfur, is running for re-election. He issued his warning while campaigning in east Sudan.

"Any foreigner or organization that demand the delay of elections will be expelled sooner rather than later, " al-Bashir said in remarks carried by the pan-Arab Al-Jazeera television.

"We want them to observe the elections, but if they interfere in our affairs and demanded the delay, we will cut their fingers and put them under our shoes and expel them," he told supporters, according to his remarks carried by Al-Arabiya television web site."

In a report released last week, the Atlanta-based Carter Center, which has an election observer mission in Sudan, recommended a "minor" postponement in the vote over concerns Sudan's election commission can deliver a successful vote on time.

WORLD BRIEFS

Grisly find in Mexico: Dismembered police officers

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP)—The pre-dawn discovery of two bodies cut into pieces and shoved into two black bags brought a tragic end Monday to a search for two missing police officers in the southern state of Guerrero. Law enforcement officials say the bagged body parts were found at 3:15 a.m. (5:15 a.m. EDT; 0915 GMT) outside police headquarters in Guerrero's capital city, Chilpancingo. One of the victims was a regional commander, the other a state police officer. Notes written on yellow cards were attached to the bags, but police refused to disclose what they said. Drug cartel killers frequently attach messages to bodies. In the nearby resort of Acapulco, police later found another two mutilated bodies and a threatening message outside the house of the city's former deputy traffic police chief.

3 former UK ministers suspended amid new scandal

LONDON (AP)—Three former Cabinet ministers have been suspended from Britain's ruling Labour Party over allegations that they tried to trade access to government officials for cash, as the country's Parliament faces a new set of ethics scandals. Former defense secretary Geoff Hoon, former transport minister Stephen Byers, and ex-health secretary Patricia Hewitt have all been suspended from Britain's Parliamentary Labour Party, the party said in a statement late Monday night, only hours after a documentary caught them apparently boasting of their influence to a fictional U.S. lobbying firm. Byers was filmed by an undercover television documentary crew apparently offering to use his contacts and access on behalf of private clients for 5,000 pounds ($7,500) per day.

German diocese say 6 accused over abuse

REGENSBURG, Germany (AP)—Four priests and two nuns in the Regensburg diocese are under investigation for sexual abuse allegations, the diocese said Monday, as a wider picture began to emerge of incidents decades ago in the pope's native Bavaria. Diocese spokesman Clemens Neck said that since allegations first surfaced earlier this month, the church has been pursuing the cases with the goals of achieving justice and help for the victims, punishing the offenders and preventing future crimes. "The work of the last 14 days has shown us that serious wrongdoing was committed by spiritual leaders and members of the church," Neck said at a press conference called to provide an update on the investigation.

Campus Life

SIS students celebrate Pi Day

The elementary and middle school students at Saipan International School took part in the international celebration of Pi Day last March 15.

Pi Day is a holiday for math enthusiasts, who celebrate how pi is used in everyday life. The week before the celebration, students learned that pi is used for calculating circumference of a circle, and is approximately 3.14.

"Pi Day is usually celebrated on March 14, but because that fell on a Sunday this year, we decided to celebrate on the 15," explained middle school math teacher Rebecca Schroeder.

As part of the celebration, students from kindergarten through eighth grade participated in indoor and outdoor activities involving circular objects, sang songs about pi, measured the circumference of circular foods, and enjoyed eating all kinds of circular foods, including, of course, pie.

"My favorite part of Pi Day was eating the food. Even though I was full, for some reason I kept eating. There were so many good choices, and it was fun to show everyone the size of my belly after the feast!" recalled seventh grader Andrew Johnson.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Elementary and middle school students at Saipan International School play with a hula hoop and Frisbee as part of celebrations of Pi Day last March 15.

Students also competed in a pi digit memorization contest, and fifth grader Yi Nou Wang shocked everyone by recalling the first 109 digits of pi correctly in order. "I memorized a story that I learned in China to remember the digits of pi. I remembered the whole story, and wrote down the numbers," she explained as her method of memorization.

Lastly, the students participated in a poster contest with the theme "Pi Under the Sky." Grand prize winners, Janice Jung in the sixth grade, and Kai Higuchi in the fifth grade, creatively showed how pi is used in the real world and received a pie donated by Herman's Bakery, a Scoops ice cream gift certificate donated by Subway Corporation, and a movie pass. Twenty other prizes were also awarded to other poster winners.

"This day couldn't have been successful without our generous donors, Herman's Bakery and Subway Corporation. Also, the enthusiasm of all the students and teachers who participated was contagious. We're already looking forward to Pi Day 2011!" said Schroeder. ***(SIS)***

GCA Tinian impressive in Guam Chamoru competition

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy Tinian was the highest placed school from the CNMI during the 7th Annual Chamoru Language Competition held in Guam last March 9.

Grace Christian Academy Tinian received the highest number of awards of all CNMI schools during the 7th Annual Chamoru Language Competition.

GCA Tinian was the only private school from the CNMI to participate in the March 9 regional competition held in Guam.

Led by volunteer coaches Angie and Elloy Fitial and assisted by teachers Cesar and Rowena Libut, the students excelled and brought home six trophies for Tinian.

The school's Children's Choir competitors brought home gold in the Middle School Division. The Choral Reading group, meanwhile, duplicated the feat with another golden haul in the Middle School Division. Joey San Nicolas brought home gold in the essay competition, while Wilhelmina Cing and Mary Grace Atalig bagged silver and bronze, respectively in the essay contest. Carlyn Hofschneider earned a silver in the oratorical category of the Middle School Division.

"Our students have improved greatly after bringing home three prizes last year, to six this year," GCA Tinian said in a statement.

The Public School System funded 39 students to participate in the language competition through the Federal Programs Office. This, after an Innovative Assistance Program proposal was submitted by Principal Rev. Reid Ellis with approval of the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Rita Sablan and Board of Education Chair Lucy Blanco Maratita. ***(PR)***

JR. MOCK TRIAL HONOREES

List of students who were recognized in the junior mock trial sponsored by the NMI Council for the Humanities last Saturday:

WHISPERING PALMS
Christian Miller
Jake Lee
Victoria Chentsova
Miguel Dandan
Gabrielle Race
Daniel Auther

MT. CARMEL SCHOOL
Josie Santos
Ginny Yu
Aiyisha Roberto
Andrea Manese
Victor Cabrera
Chelsea Bartolo

ROTA JR. HIGH SCHOOL
Mona Manglona

TINIAN JR. HIGH SCHOOL
Hannekah Aquino
Yunha Seo

ESKUELAN

SAN FRANCISCO DE BORJA
Rhea Costales
Angelique Perez
Maricel Atalig

GCA-ROTA
Gabrielle Gascon
Chrisha Llana
Bonnibeth Baichon
Glengela Guiang

HOPWOOD JR. HIGH SCHOOL
Karl Lacanilao
Rizza Butalon
Maria Dizon
Hanah Alcordo

CNMI Wide STEM Fair winners list

The overall five winners were Raven Andevor, Denise Alisson Bicera, Jana Mendiola, Ilyssa Geronimo, Vicky Kim.

LIFE SCIENCE:
k-1st grade: Mary Joyce Espinosa, Jeremy John Atalig II
2nd-3rd grade: Denise Alisson Bicera, Mikaela Rosario, Trinity Sablan
6-8th grade: Vanessa Gramlich, Gayatri Nandwani, Masrur Alam
9-12th grade: Savanah Manglona, Do Hee Kim, Bernadette Laviste

EARTH AND SPACE:
k-1st grade: Raven Andevor
2nd-3rd grade: Akari Miones, Blessy Lou Manglona, John Dimalanta
4th-5th grade: Noshin Omar, Ann Margaret Norcio, Rinisa Torres
6-8th grade: Angela Aninon, John Taisacan, Clark Yoon
9-12th grade: Yong Hwa Choi, Allyssa Shara Mae Arangorin, Julius Inocencio

PHYSICAL SCIENCE:
k-1st grade: Jeremiah Justin Hofschneider, Toa Pangelinan
2nd-3rd grade: Hana Biton, Aeyanna Maratita, Leandro Bichayda
4th-5th grade: Jana Mendiola, Benellen Camacho, Timothy Retirado
6th-8th grade: Patrick Lloyd Agustin, Yun Ha Seo, Jose Rabago
9th-12th grade: Han Sol Yu, Chloe Hofschneider, Jamila Cruz

HEALTH/NUTRITION/ MEDICAL SCIENCE:
2nd-3rd grade: Kelsey Conlon, Leonard Marcial, Charissa Parco
4th-5th grade: Miguel Aninon, Gerald Crisostomo, Romeo Shrestha
6th-8th grade: Shizuka Takayama, Justin Arangorin, Ginny Wu
9th-12th grade: Jodel Fernandez, Raiza Aquino, Grace Lee

TECHNOLOGY/ ELECTRONICS SCIENCE:
2nd-3rd grade: Lleyton Andre Javier, Helen Gramlich
4th-5th grade: Mia Sablan, Brianna Hunter, Joshua Mendiola
6th-8th grade: Ilyssa Geronimo, Nathan Camacho, Isaiah Retan
9th-12th grade: Frederico Fernandez, Martina Evangelista, Ivan Matala

MATHEMATICS:
k-1st grade: Keila Joyronne Limes
4th-5th grade: Jack Lizama, Adrian David, Kioki Pangelinan
6th-8th grade: Lester Dominic Pasion, Charlene Beseril
9th-12th grade Vicky Kim, D. Dela Cruz, Joseph Kumagai

WINNERS LIST

Winners in the Regional NFL held at Marianas High School last Saturday:

PROSE
1st Oilang Maui
2nd John Edward Elenzano
3rd Hazel Doctor
4th Doyi Lee
5th Crystalline Marie Cristobal

IMPROMPTU
1st Ryan Ortizo
2nd Chan Woo Lee
3rd Oilang Maui
4th Jenny Sakamoto
5th So Young Hwang

STORY TELLING
1st John Edward Elenzano
2nd Jenica Smithee
3rd Jimaela Anne Ham
4th Crystalline Marie Cristobal

EXPOSITORY
1st Micheal Sheu
2nd Midori Nishida
3rd Glen Paul Florendo
4th Jermaine Reina Perez
5th Jimaela Anne Ham

POETRY
1st Ryan Ortizo
2nd Chantee Rossette
3rd Janella Revilla
4th Jenica Smithee
5th Merey Len Denora

COMMENTARY
1ST Angela Faith Mamaril
2nd Micheal Sheu
3rd Jeremiah Perez
4th Moon (Richard) Park
5th Alex Park

HUMOROUS INTERPRETATION
1st Anastacia Schweiger
2nd Doyi Lee
3rd Chae Won Hwang
4th Terence Ho
5th Merey Len Denora

FOREIGN EXTEMPORANEOUS
1st Jessica Lee
2nd Jenny Sakamoto
3rd Seong Jun Hwang
4th Sun Koo Kim

DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION
1st Ryan Ortizo
2nd Bianca Blanco
3rd John Edward Elenzano
4th Jenica Smithee
5th Mark Anthony Liban

DUO INTERPRETATION
1st John Edward Elenzano/ Ryan Ortizo
2nd Anastacia Schweiger/ Kahra Atalig
3rd Bianca Blanco/Oilang Maui
4th Matthew Wheat/Vira Starr Cucal

US EXTEMPORANEOUS
1st Eunice Park
2nd Edu Banag
3rd Chan Woo Lee
4th Alex Park
5th Moon (Richard) Park

ORATORY
1st Hazel Doctor
2nd Jeremiah Perez
3rd Chantee Rossette
4th Olivia Leung
5th Micaela Demapan

Life & Style

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Loyal Club at the Hyatt members are all smiles while posing with Kili Café & Terrace outlet manager Seiji Shindo, right, during Monday's cocktails that launched Hyatt's Cajun and Creole promotion.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MARPAC resident manager Joey Garrido, JC Tenorio Enterprises' J.J. Tenorio, and company gives the Belgian premium beer Hoegaarden a try.

Enjoy Cajun and Creole creations at Hyatt

Gabriele Colombo is at again, with the Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef introducing Cajun and Creole cuisine to local palates through a weeklong dinner buffet at Kili Café & Terrace.

Always keen to introduce new styles of cooking to the hotel's loyal guests and customers, Colombo said Cajun and Creole dishes combine the rich flavors of aristocratic French and Spanish cuisines with the simple and fresh taste of rustic cooking.

Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Gabriele Colombo is flanked by food & beverage director Ranjeet Rajebhosale, left, and Kili Café & Terrace outlet manager Seiji Shindo at the entrance of the Kili Café.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

He said Hyatt's food and beverage staff will be whipping up traditional Cajun and Creole dishes like Baked Oyster Mosca, Bourbon Marinated Pork Ribs, Steamed Crawfish on Remoulade Sauce, and Cajun Chicken and Corn on the Cobs during the weeklong special dinner promotion.

"This is something different to offer to our loyal patrons and as always we will only be using the freshest and most authentic ingredients—imported from the mainland—for our Cajun and Creole dinner buffet," said Colombo.

To usher its Cajun and Creole at Kili Café & Terrace promotion, the Garapan landmark held a cocktail party Monday night where more than 40 Club at the Hyatt members and other guests sampled the cuisine, all washed down by Hoegaarden.

Food and beverages director Ranjeet Rajebhosale said Hyatt has partnered with the Belgian beer's local distributor, MARPAC, for the weeklong promotion as they will offer Belgian Hoegaarden in the dinner buffet.

Originating from Louisiana, Creole cuisine is a style of cooking that incorporates French, Portuguese, Spanish, Canarian, Caribbean, Mediterranean, Deep Southern American, Indian, and African influences. Cajun cuisine, meanwhile, arose from the more rural, provincial French cooking adapted by the Acadians to Louisiana ingredients.

The Cajun and Creole dinner buffet at Kili Café & Terrace is from 6pm to 10pm. It costs $35 and Club at the Hyatt cards are welcome. For reservations, call 234-1234 Ext. 30. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

FOR RESERVATIONS
Call 234-1234 Ext. 30

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Propst pose with friends during the cocktail event.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

ABC store manager Rusty Ada and his wife pose with friends.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

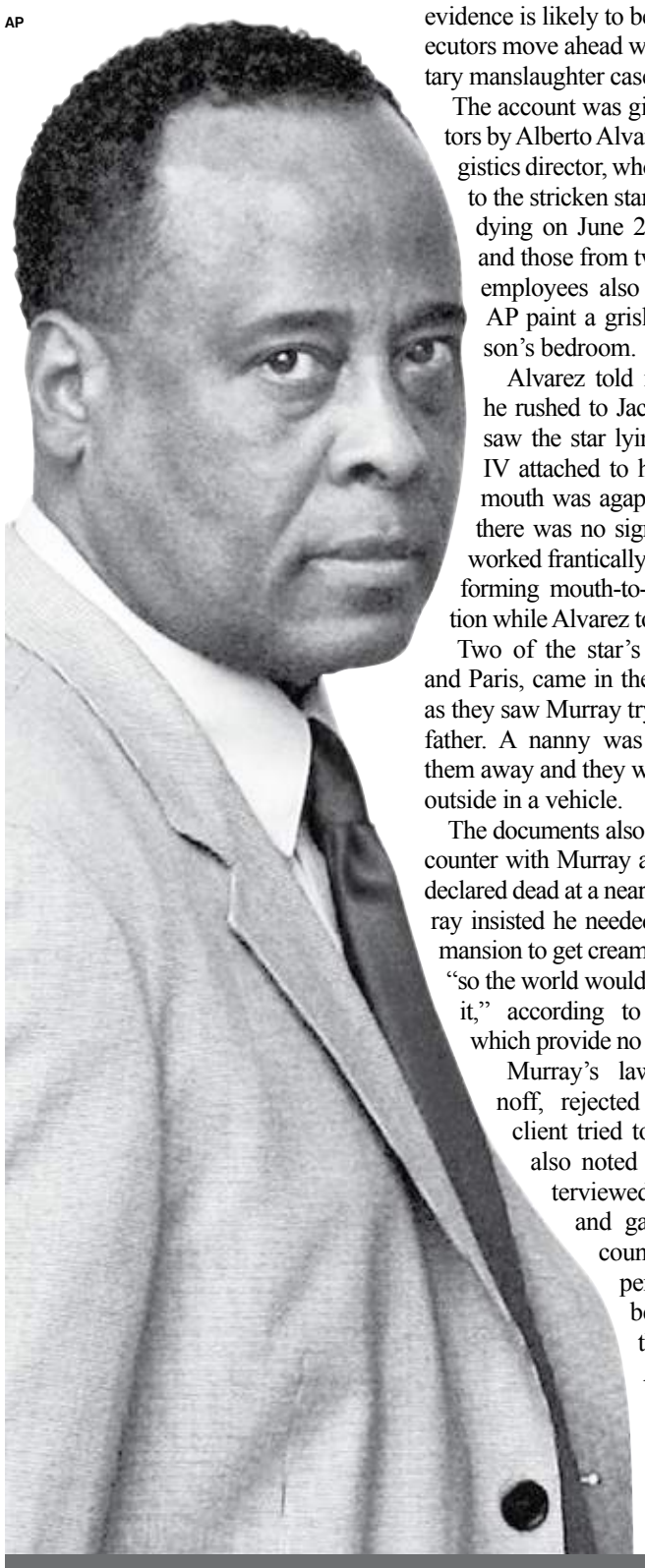
Ranjeet Rajebhosale and Seiji Shindo with CATH members.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tim and Tina Goodwin with XTERRA athlete Renata Bucher of Switzerland.

In this Monday, Feb. 8, 2010 file photo, Michael Jackson's physician, Conrad Murray, right, arrives for his arraignment at the Airport Branch Courthouse in Los Angeles, where he is expected to face involuntary manslaughter charges in Jackson's death.

AP



Witness: Michael Jackson doctor interrupted CPR

By THOMAS WATKINS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's doctor halted CPR on the dying pop star and delayed calling paramedics so he could collect drug vials at the scene, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press that shed new light on the singer's chaotic final moments.

The explosive allegation that Dr. Conrad Murray may have tried to hide evidence is likely to be a focus as prosecutors move ahead with their involuntary manslaughter case against him.

The account was given to investigators by Alberto Alvarez, Jackson's logistics director, who was summoned to the stricken star's side as he was dying on June 25. His statement and those from two other Jackson employees also obtained by the AP paint a grisly scene in Jackson's bedroom.

Alvarez told investigators that he rushed to Jackson's room and saw the star lying in his bed, an IV attached to his leg. Jackson's mouth was agape, eyes open and there was no sign of life. Murray worked frantically, at one point performing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation while Alvarez took over CPR.

Two of the star's children, Prince and Paris, came in the room and cried as they saw Murray trying to save their father. A nanny was called to usher them away and they were taken to wait outside in a vehicle.

The documents also detail an odd encounter with Murray after Jackson was declared dead at a nearby hospital. Murray insisted he needed to return to the mansion to get cream that Jackson had "so the world wouldn't find out about it," according to the statements, which provide no elaboration.

Murray's lawyer, Ed Chernoff, rejected the notion his client tried to hide drugs. He also noted Alvarez was interviewed twice by police and gave different accounts of what happened in Jackson's bedroom. During the first interview, Alvarez made no mention of being told to tidy away medicine vials.

"He didn't say any of those things, then two months later, all of a sudden, the doc is throwing bottles into the bag," Chernoff said. "Alvarez's statement is inconsistent with his previous statement. We will deal with that at trial."

Alvarez and the others who gave the statements, Jackson's personal assistant Michael Amir Williams and driver/bodyguard Faheem Muhammad, could be key witnesses should Murray go to trial. Except for the brief appearances by the nanny and the children, Alvarez and Muhammad were the only others in the room with Murray as he tried to save Jackson before paramedics arrived.

Alvarez's attorney, Carl Douglas, declined to be interviewed for this story.

Jackson, 50, hired Murray to be his personal physician as he prepared for a series of comeback performances in London. He was participating in strenuous rehearsals and Murray would routinely meet him at the star's home in the evening for treatments.

The Los Angeles coroner ruled Jackson's death a homicide caused by an overdose of the powerful anesthetic propofol and two other sedatives given to get the chronic insomniac to sleep. Propofol, a milky white liquid, is supposed to be administered only by anesthesia professionals in medical settings. Patients require constant monitoring because the drug depresses breathing and heart rate while lowering blood pressure, a potentially deadly combination.

Murray, 57, a cardiologist licensed in Nevada, California and Texas, has acknowledged briefly leaving Jackson's bedside the day he died but maintained from the outset that nothing he gave the singer should have killed him. It wasn't illegal for him to administer propofol, though whether he followed proper procedures while Jackson was under the influence is a key part of the case.

California Attorney General Jerry Brown's office has asked a court to suspend Murray's license pending the outcome of criminal proceedings against him.

Alvarez, Muhammad and Williams are all represented by attorney Carl Douglas and gave their statements separately on Aug. 31 at the lawyer's Beverly Hills office. None of the three has spoken publicly about the events of June 25.

Alvarez told police he arrived at Jackson's home around 10:20 a.m. He was awaiting instructions for the day in a security trailer outside Jackson's rented mansion when, at 12:17 p.m., his phone rang. It was Williams.

Williams told Alvarez that Murray had just called to say Jackson was in trouble. Alvarez rushed into the mansion and up the stairs to Jackson's room, where he saw Murray standing at the pop star's bedside, performing CPR with one hand, according to the statements.

Alvarez asked the doctor what had happened.

"He had a reaction, he had a bad reaction," Murray replied, according to Alvarez's statement.

Murray then grabbed a few vials with rubber tops and told Alvarez to put them in a bag, Alvarez told investigators. Alvarez picked up a plastic bag from the floor and Murray put the bottles inside, then Murray told Alvarez to put that plastic bag inside a brown canvas bag, according to the account.

Alvarez said Murray then told him to remove an IV bag from a stand and put it in a blue canvas bag. He did, and noticed the bag had a connector with a milky white substance in it. Alvarez didn't say what happened to the bags, nor did he identify what was in the vials.

Two days after Jackson's death, under several hours of questioning by police, Murray eventually directed them to a closet in Jackson's bedroom. In it, they found propofol and other sedatives in a bag.

On the day Jackson died, Murray waited until the bags were filled before telling Alvarez to call for an ambulance, according to Alvarez's statement.

"I need an ambulance as soon as possible," Alvarez told a dispatcher. "We have a gentleman here that needs help and he's not breathing."

The dispatcher told Alvarez to put Jackson on the floor.

At that moment, Muhammad rushed into the room and began helping with chest compressions while Murray attempted mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Murray told the men it was his first time performing CPR, Alvarez said, though Chernoff said Murray had administered CPR many times before.

Murray then placed a dark brown machine with wires onto Jackson's fingers, Alvarez said. Police later said they found a pulse oximeter at Jackson's home, a medical device that shows heart rate and the amount of oxygen in the blood.

By 12:27 p.m., paramedics arrived at the house. According to their report, Jackson was not breathing and had no pulse at 12:29 p.m. However, Murray stated he could feel a weak pulse in Jackson's upper thigh area, Alvarez and Muhammad said.

According to the paramedic report, emergency responders tried two rounds of resuscitation attempts and were ready to discontinue treatment, but Murray said he would take responsibility and insisted resuscitation be continued in the ambulance.

At 1:07 p.m., the singer was taken to Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, where doctors attempted a range of resuscitation techniques. Jackson was pronounced dead at 2:26 p.m.

At the hospital, after the death had been called, Williams said he saw Murray crying.

Murray asked Williams if he or someone else could take him back to the mansion so he could pick up the cream, according to Williams' statement.

Williams said he didn't think it was a good idea for Murray to return to the house. He spoke to Muhammad and they agreed they wouldn't take Murray back. They concocted a story that police had taken all the keys to the vehicles as part of the investigation.

Murray said he would take a cab, and Williams said he saw him leave the hospital through a side door.

Affleck launches aid group for eastern Congo

By JASON STRAZIUSO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Ben Affleck launched a new initiative Monday to raise money and awareness over atrocities committed against women and children during years of conflict in eastern Congo, Affleck told The Associated Press.

The American actor and director spent five days in the country last week, where he met with former child sex slaves and prisoners convicted of rape in the hope of gaining a better understanding of Congo's troubles.

The new foundation—the Eastern Congo Initiative—will support community-based, Congolese groups, said Affleck on the heels of his fifth trip to the country.

"It was folks in these communities that were addressing the humanitarian crisis who were doing the most, in my view, to solve it, because they understood the community, because they understood the problem, they were the most dedicated and the most committed because it was their lives," Affleck told AP over the weekend at Nairobi's international airport.

"Naturally they were best equipped to solve it. Their impediment was they didn't have the means, the funding," he said.

The new initiative is funded in part by founding member Howard G. Buffett, son of investor Warren Buffet, to whom Affleck pitched his vision of a new aid group by describing eastern Congo's dire situation.

"I want you to know that 3.5 million people have died over the last 12 years. I want you to know about the women who are being raped, about the child soldiers ... about the kids I just met who have HIV," Affleck said he told Buffet. "I kind of bored him for two hours and basically twisted his arm."

Buffet said in a statement that he joined Affleck in the initiative because he believes in supporting locally initiated, sustainable efforts.

The 37-year-old Affleck has been traveling to eastern Congo since 2007 and previously directed a short film called "Gimme Shelter" about the humanitarian crisis there. The country has suffered years of violence and its devastating 1998-2002 war split the vast nation into rival fiefdoms and involved half a dozen African armies.

Affleck said he was insecure about getting involved at first, because of how little he initially knew and for fear of being seen as an arrogant actor. That's why he took five trips into the region before launching his project, he said.

The Eastern Congo Initiative will also push the U.S. government to develop a comprehensive strategy and show more leadership in the region, he said.

Faida Mitifu, the U.S. ambassador to Congo, said Affleck's initiative would bring "much-needed attention to a region that has suffered for too long."

One person Affleck met with last week was a 19-year-old woman who was abducted at age 15 by a group of rebels from neighboring Rwanda and was forced to serve as a sex slave to six men for about two years.

She eventually ran away with only the clothes on her back and was taken in by an aid group called Laissez L'Afrique Vivre—or Let Africa Live—that teaches former child soldiers skills like carpentry and sewing.

"A former slave and bush wife to six guys, finds out she's pregnant and she wanted to die, didn't think life was worth living, and a nun from the organization came and found her and brought her in," Affleck said. "She's now going to law school to try to become a lawyer and she said she wants to do women's rights."

It's exactly the kind of aid group that Affleck said his new initiative will support. "I thought these people were pretty great," he said.

AP

In this Friday, March 19, 2010 photo Ben Affleck, center, founder of the Eastern Congo Initiative, meets with former child soldiers in Bukavu, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

MORE THAN TWO SIDES TO 3-D DEBATE:

Theater owners, actors, filmmakers split at convention

By SCOTT BOWLES
USA TODAY

LAS VEGAS — To 3-D or not to 3-D?

No question dominated the ShoWest convention of theater owners more than that one, which has exhibitors weighing whether the public's appetite for 3-D warrants multimillion-dollar theater makeovers.

Panels were standing room only last week. The massive trade show floor, usually reserved for new popcorn makers and theater seats, became Debate Central. Even stars weighed in.

"I'm a grown man; I don't need to see things jumping out at me," says Zach Galifianakis, star of "The Hangover" and winner of Sho West's comedy star of the year award. "If I want to see a bird flying toward me, I'll walk out into my yard. It seems like a great effect but not much more."

"Avatar" producer Jon Landau, who won the show's innovation award along with director James Cameron, says critics are viewing 3-D too narrowly. "No one would say we shouldn't have gone to sound or color," Landau says. "People are treating it as a gimmick, instead of a tool."

But not all stars want that tool applied on them. "It was hard enough accepting high-definition screens," cracks "Sex and the City's" Sarah Jessica Parker, who was at ShoWest to pick up the best-ensemble prize.

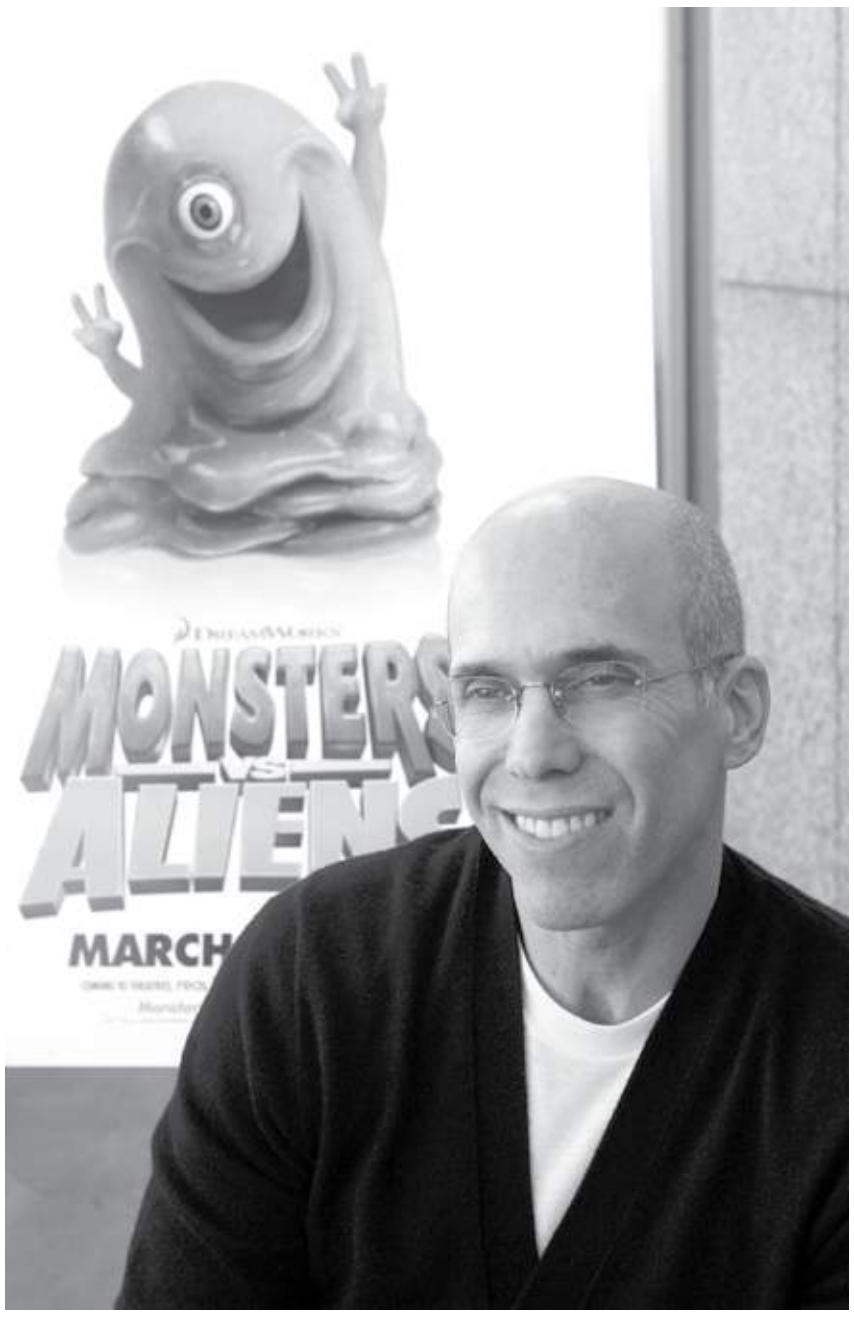
"Maybe I'm old-fashioned, but I'm a 2-D girl," Parker says. "I don't want to look like I'm crawling out of the screen at people."

Katherine Heigl sees it differently. "Life," she says, "is in 3-D."

And so are an increasing number of movies. According to the Motion Picture Association of America's annual study, released this month, studios produced 20 3-D films last year, compared with eight in 2008.

Moviegoing worldwide leaped almost 8 percent last year, mirroring the 10 percent spike in the U.S. box office in 2009. According to the study, 3-D movies constituted 11 percent of all business last year, compared with 2 percent in 2008. Those funny glasses helped rake in $1.1 billion in ticket sales last year, a 375 percent increase from the year before.

"I feel like we're watching the industry change in front of our eyes," says actor Sam Worthington of "Terminator Salvation," "Avatar" and the 3-D "Clash of the Titans" (out April 2), who received actor-of-the-year honors at the convention.



CHARLES FOX/PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/MCT
DreamWorks' Jeffrey Katzenberg calls 3-D "the third major revolution" in filmmaking after sound, color. Katzenberg is photographed at the Four Seasons, Logan Square in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

"We're watching changes to the business (not) seen since sound or color."

But storytelling still reigns supreme. "Toy Story 3," the latest feature in the animated series that got Pixar on its feet, was greeted enthusiastically by the theater owners and reduced audiences to tears at its screening. An early exhibitor favorite, the 3-D Disney release, which reunites many of the original's voice stars and adds Michael Keaton as Ken, is scheduled to hit theaters June 18.

Animation is a natural, but for other directors, the question is how to work 3-D into their genre of choice.

"I've been trying to figure out the 3-D application to comedy, and I haven't figured it out yet," says Jay Roach, director of the "Meet the Parents" and "Austin Powers" franchises.

"I guess you could have a body part jump out of the screen," Roach says. "It's not as easy as, say, science fiction. But I saw 'Avatar' and was amazed. It's obviously a game changer."

A game changed into what, however, is anyone's guess.

"You're hearing a lot of extreme talk on both sides," says Bill Stembler, president of the Georgia Theatre Co., which has 27 theaters throughout the South.

"In the end, I think you'll see about 25 percent of the (nation's) screens going 3-D and digital," he says. "That would be enough to meet demand and still have the traditional movie experience."

'Mother' named best picture at Asian Film Awards

By MIN LEE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

HONG KONG (AP)—A South Korean drama about a mother's quest to exonerate her mentally handicapped son from murder allegations shined at the fourth Asian Film Awards on Monday, clinching best picture and top acting honors for veteran performer Kim Hye-ja.

"Mother" also bagged the best screenplay prize for director Bong Joon-ho and co-writer Park Eun-kyo.

Lu Chuan won best director for "City of Life and Death," a grim, black-and-white picture about Japanese atrocities during its World War II-era invasion of China.

Wang Xueqi was named best actor for playing a businessman in imperial China who sympathized with the revolutionary cause in "Bodyguards and Assassins." The Teddy Chan kung fu thriller also earned the best supporting actor prize for Hong Kong singer Nicholas Tse.

Best actress went to Wai Ying-hung, who portrayed a single mother whose son faces rape charges in "At the End of Daybreak."

"Mother" producer Moon Yang-kwon said Bong tailored the drama for Kim, a highly revered actress in South Korea.

"Kim Hye-ja carries the image of a mother to all South Koreans. So after Bong met her for the first time 15 years ago, he kept thinking about how to make a movie based on her image," Moon said through a translator backstage.

AP
South Korea film producer Moon Yang-kwon, seen, after winning the best movie award for " Mother ", at Hong Kong International Film Festival in Hong Kong Monday, March 22, 2010.

The producer said the film succeeded by making audiences ponder the power of parental love.

"The movie posed the question to viewers who are sons and daughters, 'Will my mother go to such lengths for me?' Mothers will ask, 'Can I sacrifice this way for my children?'" he said.

Neither Kim nor Bong, best known for his hit 2006 monster thriller "The Host," attended Monday's ceremony.

Wang, whose credits also include "In the Heat of the Sun" and "Warriors of Heaven and Earth," thanked his ensemble cast. "Bodyguards and Assassins" is about a group of men in early 20th century Hong Kong who protect the father of modern China, Sun Yat-sen, from killers dispatched by the empress.

US court: Student can't sue over 'Ave Maria' ban

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday refused to let a high school student sue over school officials' refusal to let her play an instrumental version of "Ave Maria" at her graduation, a decision one justice says could lead to wide-ranging censorship of student speech.

The high court on Monday refused to hear an appeal from Kathryn Nurre, a former student at Henry M. Jackson High School. Nurre, who was a senior in 2006, wanted to play "Ave Maria"—Hail Mary in Latin—with the band's wind ensemble at the graduation.

Administrators raised red flags at the Everett, Washington, school when they heard about the idea from the wind ensemble seniors, who had played Franz Biebl's uptempo 1964 rendering of "Ave Maria" without controversy at a winter concert.

A year before, choral performance of the song "Up Above My Head" at the 2005 commencement drew complaints and protest letters to the town's newspaper. Therefore, school officials said the seniors could not play the song since the title alone identified "Ave Maria" as religious and that graduation should be strictly secular.

Nurre sued, claiming unspecified damages from infringement of U.S. constitutional free speech rights. The federal courts threw out the lawsuit, with judges saying it was reasonable for a school official to prohibit the performance of an obviously religious piece.

The court's majority turned away her request for appeal without comment. But Justice Samuel Alito said he would have heard her case.

There are nearly 10 million students under the jurisdiction of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Alito said. The decision by the San Francisco-based appeals court could lead to censorship of other forms of student expression outside of music, like student speeches and other school events.

"A reasonable reading of the Ninth Circuit's decision is that it authorizes school administrators to ban any controversial student expression at any school event attended by parents because of the importance of the event for the participating students," Alito said. "A decision with such potentially broad and troubling implications merits our review."

MGM studio says has received several rescue offers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc., an iconic Hollywood studio that has fallen on hard times, said Monday it has received several offers from suitors wanting to acquire it or keep it operating as a standalone company.

MGM said it will take several weeks to evaluate the offers, which came after six companies made nonbiding proposals in January.

Not all of the six handed in offers, a person familiar with the process said Monday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the offers are meant to be confidential.

It's not clear which companies are still in the running, but those expected to have proposed buying MGM outright were Time Warner Inc., Lions Gate Entertainment Corp., and Len Blavatnik's Access Industries.

Representatives of Time Warner, Lions Gate, and Access declined to comment. The offers to buy the studio had been due on Friday but MGM extended the process until Monday as some bidders appeared to stall for time.

Both News Corp., which owns 20th Century Fox, and private equity firm Qualia Capital LLC had offered earlier to inject cash to keep MGM operating independently while it restructured its debt.

Qualia, formed by former executives of movie distributor Artisan Entertainment, offered to inject at least $500 million, while News didn't specify an amount.

Representatives of News Corp. and Qualia also declined to comment.

MGM is known for its roaring lion and classics such as "The Wizard of Oz," and has been sold several times since its founding in 1924.

The latest sale came at the height of a Hollywood bubble, when Sony Corp., Comcast Corp. and several private equity firms took on $3.7 billion in bank debt and a $250 million credit line to take MGM from a group that included billionaire Kirk Kerkorian for $5 billion in 2005.

Sagging DVD sales and a lack of hits at the box office have diminished the value of the company. All of the offers were expected to fall short of $2 billion.

The studio has been putting off paying interest payments on its bank debt since September, and on Monday it said it hoped to work with lenders to extend that reprieve past March 31, when it was scheduled to resume payments.

Sri Lankan protesters against Akon throw stones

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Protesters outraged at an upcoming concert by R&B singer Akon hurled stones at a Sri Lankan private broadcaster's headquarters Monday, injuring four workers and damaging the building.

The attack followed accusations that Akon desecrated an image of the Buddha in a music video, upsetting many in Sri Lanka's conservative Buddhist majority.

Police spokesman Prishantha Jayakody said several protesters were taken into custody after attacking the headquarters of the Maharaja Organization, the broadcaster sponsoring next month's concert in Colombo.

About 200 people suddenly gathered outside the office in the capital, Colombo, and threw stones at the building, said Chevan Daniel, head of news at Maharaja.

The stones shattered some of the office's windows, damaged several vehicles parked outside the building and left four workers with minor injuries, he said. Placards left at the scene read, "Stop Akon's show."

The protesters appeared to be angry over Akon's video "Sexy Chick," which features scantily clad women dancing at a pool party with a Buddha statue visible in the background.

Maharaja has three television and four radio stations.

Last year, a group of armed men attacked its studio and transmission compound, tossing hand grenades and spraying the building with gunfire. That attack came days after the government accused the media group of not being patriotic enough in its coverage of the military's offensive over ethnic Tamil insurgents.

The police promised a full investigation of that incident, but no one was ever arrested or prosecuted.

Filmmaker Del Toro to give 'Hobbit' new look

HONG KONG (AP)—One of Peter Jackson's frequent collaborators says the "Lord of the Rings" director passed the torch to Mexican filmmaker Guillermo del Toro to give the trilogy's two-part prequel, "The Hobbit," a fresh look.

After the huge success of the "Rings" series, Jackson is now working on adapting the J.R.R. Tolkien fantasy novel that takes place before the trilogy. But this time the Oscar-winning New Zealand filmmaker is producing and working on the script, relinquishing directing duties to Del Toro, whose credits include "Pan's Labyrinth" and the two "Hellboy" movies.

Longtime Jackson collaborator, art designer Richard Taylor, says he thinks his friend gave up the director's chair "probably because he's spent so long in Middle Earth ... and probably felt a director such as Guillermo could bring something passionate and unique and original and new to the content for the sake of the fans," referring to the imaginary world where the novels are set.

"It's an absolute delight to be working with Guillermo Del Toro. We've all enjoyed his craft as seen in 'Pan's Labyrinth' and the 'Hellboy' movies. His unique aesthetic and storytelling style brings a lovely aesthetic to the world and one we're enjoying being part of," Taylor told The Associated Press on Monday in Hong Kong, where he is attending a digital entertainment conference at the technology park Cyberport.

AP

Richard Taylor, a frequent collaborator with Peter Jackson, director of "Lord of the Rings" poses with drawings by a fellow art designer from New Zealand's Weta Workshop at an exhibition in Hong Kong Monday, March 22, 2010. Taylor said the "Lord of the Rings" director relinquished directing duties to Mexican filmmaker Guillermo Del Toro on the trilogy's prequel, "The Hobbit" to give it a fresh look.

The Weta Workshop president said his team has started designing the landscape and characters in "The Hobbit," but that he was unclear when shooting on the New Line Cinema production will start in New Zealand.

"We're just patiently waiting for it to begin. It's been in early development for a while. I'm sure it will get going some time soon," Taylor said.

He said he will stick to a consistent look for the main characters that appear in both the "Rings" series and "The Hobbit."

Taylor, who also won Oscars for his work on the "Rings" series, said he doesn't know if "The Hobbit" will be released in 3-D, but said the Weta team will take advantage of technological advancements since the first trilogy.

"Like any film, there will be an effort to utilize the tools that are available to us today to achieve visual images that will excite and intrigue an audience as we did try 10 years ago."

Study: TV, computer use multitasking up sharply

NEW YORK (AP)—The amount of time people in the U.S. spend on the computer while watching TV is going up sharply.

The Nielsen Co. said Monday that people who multitask this way spent an average of three and a half hours doing so in December. That's up sharply from the two hours, 29 minutes that Nielsen reported only six months earlier.

The percentage of TV viewers who do this isn't going up that fast. That increased by 57 percent to 59 percent during the same period. But those who are doing it spend much more time at it.

Television executives have pointed to this trend to help explain why big events like the Oscars and the Grammys have been doing so well in the ratings—people watching and making comments to their friends through social Web sites like Twitter and Facebook.

A Broadway theater is renamed for Stephen Sondheim

NEW YORK (AP)—So what did Stephen Sondheim get Monday on his 80th birthday?

A Broadway theater renamed for the composer of "Company," ''Follies," ''Sweeney Todd" and other memorable shows.

The Henry Miller's Theatre on West 43rd Street will now be known as the Stephen Sondheim Theatre.

The announcement was made by longtime Sondheim collaborators James Lapine and John Weidman at the conclusion of a gala performance at Studio 54 of "Sondheim on Sondheim," a celebration of the man's work in the musical theater. The Roundabout Theatre Company production, starring Barbara Cook and Vanessa Williams, officially opens April 22.

The existing Henry Miller's Theatre was constructed behind the restored neo-Georgian facade of the original theater, built more than 90 years ago. It opened last fall with a revival of "Bye Bye Birdie" and currently houses "All About Me," starring Dame Edna and Michael Feinstein.

Burglary suspect may have hidden stars' goods

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police suspect the alleged mastermind behind a rash of celebrity burglaries may have hidden a large amount of the stolen property with her father's help, court records show.

A search warrant affidavit filed earlier this year in Los Angeles seeks phone and Internet records that police said might help recover items stolen from numerous celebrities.

An affidavit filed in support of the warrant states that police believe Rachel J. Lee, who has been charged with some of the break-ins, and her father, David Lee, hid the items before their Las Vegas home was searched last year.

Authorities have identified Rachel Lee as the suspected mastermind of a string of burglaries at the homes of several stars, including Orlando Bloom, Lindsay Lohan, Paris Hilton and Megan Fox.

Los Angeles Police Officer Brett Goodkin said Monday that there is a substantial amount of property stolen from the stars homes that hasn't yet been recovered. He said the value could be up to $2 million.

Goodkin declined to elaborate on the details included in the search warrant or leads he may have received but said police are presenting evidence to prosecutors as needed.

Neither Rachel Lee or her father have been charged with hiding stolen property, court records in Los Angeles and Las Vegas show. Her attorney, Peter J. Korn, did not immediately return a call seeking comment Monday.

Friends think clumsy woman's bruises are evidence of abuse

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 27-year-old woman who is a "klutz," which explains why I often have bruises on my legs and elbows. The other day, while lunching with friends I hadn't seen in a while, one of them brought up the subject of my bruises. (I had rolled up the sleeves of my blouse and was wearing a skirt.)

I laughed and explained how I got them—running off an elevator before the door had opened all the way, tripping while climbing some stairs, and crashing into the coffee table and nearly breaking my leg. My friends exchanged knowing looks and told me if I ever needed anything—ANYthing at all—they were there for me and offered protection!

It became obvious that they think my fiance caused the bruises. I explained that I am often in a hurry and accident-prone. They didn't believe me. They just nodded and said, "Uh-huh ..."

I feel so humiliated. My fiance has never laid a finger on me. I have never had a healthier, more loving relationship, and it hurt that my friends think I'm a victim of domestic abuse.

A birthday get-together is coming soon and I don't feel comfortable going now. I'm worried they may tell others what they "think" may be going on behind closed doors. How do I set the record straight?

JUST CLUMSY IN AMARILLO

DEAR JUST CLUMSY: You won't set the record straight by hiding out and refusing to face them. Doing so will only fuel their unfounded suspicions, so attend the party. And at the next girls' lunch tell them, warmly, that you appreciate knowing they'll always be there for you, and if they ever need you for anything—ANYthing at all—you'll be there for them, too. Say it sweetly, with a smile, and above all, do not appear defensive.

P.S. In the future, how about slowing down, trying to be more careful and watching where you're going? One of these days you could seriously hurt yourself.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a horrible secret. I have cheated on my husband with multiple strangers. I have tried to tell him I have an addiction, but he blows me off. When I first met him, I had been with two people. Since our wedding, I have lost count.

I think about sex constantly and often arrange to meet men anonymously many times during the week. I have tried to stop, but I just can't seem to. Believe me, I have tried.

I have attempted to talk to my husband about this so he will listen—but I'm afraid to estimate how many times I have cheated because I fear he will leave me. Please help me.

CAN'T STOP DOWN SOUTH

DEAR CAN'T STOP: At this point the only thing worse than telling your husband what's been going on would be not to. People who engage in anonymous sex can carry all kinds of STDs, and you have exposed not only yourself but him to them. You both should see a doctor and be tested immediately—and if you love him, you will give him that important message.

There is an organization that may be able to help you regain control of your life. It's Sexaholics Anonymous. It originated in 1979 and is based on the same principles as Alcoholics Anonymous.

Its Web site is www.sa.org and the e-mail address of the Sexaholics Anonymous International Central Office is saico@sa.org. Please contact them ASAP because they will take you seriously, nothing will shock them, and they may be able to help you break the news to your husband in a way that won't end your marriage.

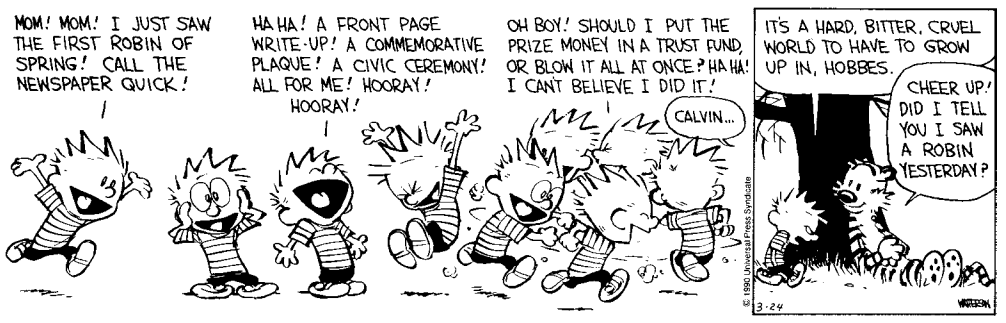
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MOM! MOM! I JUST SAW THE FIRST ROBIN OF SPRING! CALL THE NEWSPAPER QUICK!
HA HA! A FRONT PAGE WRITE-UP! A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE! A CIVIC CEREMONY! ALL FOR ME! HOORAY! HOORAY!
OH BOY! SHOULD I PUT THE PRIZE MONEY IN A TRUST FUND, OR BLOW IT ALL AT ONCE? HA HA! I CAN'T BELIEVE I DID IT!
CALVIN...
IT'S A HARD, BITTER, CRUEL WORLD TO HAVE TO GROW UP IN, HOBBES.
CHEER UP! DID I TELL YOU I SAW A ROBIN YESTERDAY?
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
3-24

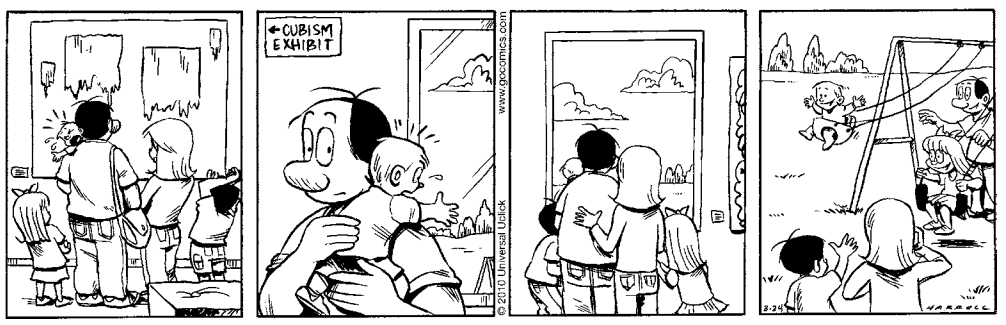
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

BARK! BARK! HAR.....
OH, MY THROAT!
© 2010 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
www.garfield.com
TIME FOR A NICE CUP OF TEA WITH A LITTLE HONEY
AND DON'T FORGET THE TWIST OF LEMON, YOU BIG SISSY!
JIM DAVIS 3-24
Distributed by Universal Uclick

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I THINK I'LL GO OUT TO THE GARAGE AND TINKER AROUND.
WILL YOU BE USING POWER TOOLS?
PROBABLY.
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/dist. by Universal Uclick
3-24-10
HELLO, 9-1-1? COULD YOU SEND SOME PARAMEDICS OVER IN... OH, ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES?
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

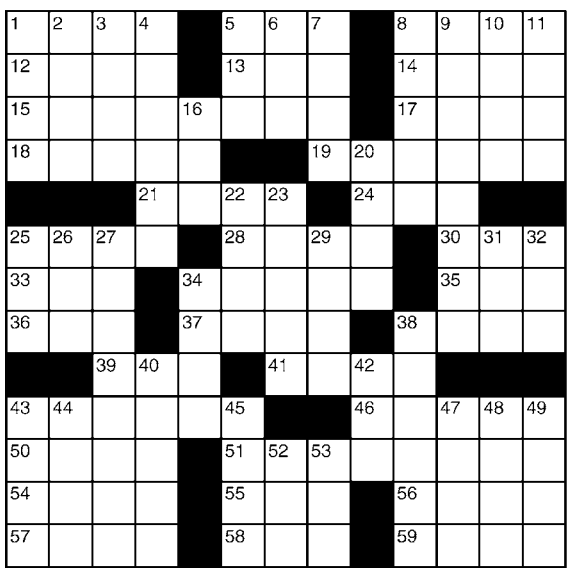
ACROSS
1 Satan's minions
5 Afternoon get-together
8 Burn somewhat
12 Paint layer
13 Lummox
14 Sitarist's music style
15 And so forth
17 "— Named Sue"
18 "Superman" star
19 Wreak havoc on
21 Big fair
24 D.C. title
25 Become a member
28 Reed instrument
30 Moray, for example
33 Samovar
34 La Scala show
35 Kanga's kid
36 Sleuth
37 Part of a three-piece suit
38 Slamming sound
39 Expert
41 Being, to Brutus
43 Mourn
46 Third rock from the sun
50 Sleeping
51 Skin cream ingredient
54 Antitoxins
55 Pod denizen
56 Tend texts
57 Celebrity
58 Knight's address
59 Lasso

DOWN
1 Bakery worker, at times
2 Speck
3 Walk the floor
4 Spielberg or Soderbergh
5 Pirouette pivot
6 Listener
7 Somewhere out there
8 Want really bad
9 "Carmen" number
10 Enthusiastic, plus
11 Martha of comedy
16 Ritter of Westerns
20 On a cruise
22 Benedict XVI, e.g.
23 Unpleasingly plump
25 Stick out
26 Raw rock
27 Secretly
29 Doggie bag fill
31 Quite some time
32 Journal
34 Microwave
38 Dam builder
40 Fragrant wood
42 Witness
43 Glaswegian gal
44 Help hoods
45 Reveille's opposite
47 Give a makeover to
48 Stumble
49 Loathe
52 Mainlander's memento
53 Rowing need

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	A	R	B	■	E	N	D	■	I	N	F	O
I	D	E	A	■	L	E	I	■	R	E	A	P
B	O	X	S	E	A	T	S	■	O	O	Z	E
■	■	■	S	O	N	■	T	I	N	N	E	D
A	S	H	E	N	■	H	A	R	I	■	■	■
R	I	O	T	■	M	U	S	I	C	B	O	X
A	L	A	■	S	O	R	T	S	■	A	P	E
B	O	X	S	C	O	R	E	■	W	R	E	N
■	■	■	M	A	N	Y	■	A	R	E	N	A
L	A	M	A	R	R	■	A	G	A	■	■	■
U	S	E	R	■	I	D	I	O	T	B	O	X
T	E	A	M	■	S	O	D	■	H	O	N	E
Z	A	N	Y	■	E	W	E	■	S	P	E	D

Yesterday's answer 3-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Peyton Manning, 34; Alyson Hannigan, 36; Sharon Corr, 40; Louie Anderson, 57

Happy Birthday: You will face personal clashes that you must deal with if you are going to make any progress this year. This is a learning year that must be handled with willpower, integrity and the desire to bring about much-needed changes. Take opportunities seriously. Money, property and doing what's required of you will all play a role. Your numbers are 3, 6, 13, 22, 27, 36, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Money and home are highlighted. You can buy or sell property or enhance your assets. You may have to cut your losses but you will still come out ahead of the game and be well-positioned for future opportunities. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Travel, seminars or conferences will all pay off in the end. Utilize what you have to offer by presenting, promoting and networking with the people who can incorporate your expertise into their daily routine and budget. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Nothing will be secure or stable. You are in a good position but must protect what you want and what you have. Don't be unnerved by anyone who talks big or is trying to push you. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You will have to size things up before you make a move or create any friction with anyone at home or at work. A critical, negative attitude will be your downfall. Focus on work and how much you can accomplish on your own. An added responsibility can be expected. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Focus on what you have to offer and what you can get in return. A little creative accounting will help you save money later. An investment, settlement, rebate, gift or win is apparent and must be taken advantage of. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You know what you have to do to keep things running smoothly. Don't let anyone who intrigues you cause a financial setback for you. A change in a partnership now will lead to greater leverage in the future. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Nothing will go according to plan but it will be an exciting time to make creative, personal alterations to your life. Don't let emotions lead you off-target. Know what you want and what you can offer. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't be afraid to present what you have to offer. You will be well-received, no matter what you do, so take advantage of every opportunity. A trip to see someone who can offer you suggestions or introductions will change the way you think and do things. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Love is in the stars and will leave you with mixed feelings about your past, present and future. Don't let uncertainties cause you to make a mistake. Finish one thing before you move on to another. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Consider your personal and professional options regarding partnerships. Some of the people in your life may be leaning on you too much and need a reminder to back off. Problems with friends, relatives and neighbors must be dealt with promptly. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put in extra hours or look for a new position with more to offer you. A high-energy approach to projects will lead to an enticing partnership. An emotional issue with someone from your past should be cleared up. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): The more you interact with others, the more you will learn and the easier it will be to get the help you want. Don't limit what you can do because someone is putting restrictions on you. Fight for your rights. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are always up for a challenge. When it comes to home, family and friends, you are sensitive and emotional. You are serious-minded and hardworking.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8	6	4	9	5	3	7	
	4						6	
						8		
					8			
		3	2	7	6	9		
			5					
		8						
	2						3	
	6	1	7	8	9	5	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

2	6	5	3	7	4	1	9	8
8	1	3	6	5	9	4	2	7
9	4	7	2	1	8	6	3	5
4	7	9	1	3	5	8	6	2
5	8	6	7	9	2	3	4	1
3	2	1	8	4	6	7	5	9
7	5	2	4	6	1	9	8	3
6	3	8	9	2	7	5	1	4
1	9	4	5	8	3	2	7	6

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/23

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MORNING MEAL **Solution: 9 letters**

E	K	Y	E	N	M	E	C	P	N	L	E	U	R	G
Y	M	C	R	E	R	I	R	O	C	B	A	G	S	Y
G	I	O	A	A	N	O	O	U	L	R	R	B	E	C
R	C	T	S	N	T	P	V	E	T	I	E	L	E	A
E	S	V	A	E	S	E	N	A	T	X	R	A	D	R
N	T	M	I	N	L	D	I	S	L	A	I	I	M	B
E	O	N	I	T	I	O	R	D	B	F	E	M	C	O
N	S	A	A	S	A	T	H	E	A	L	T	H	Y	H
R	R	U	H	T	E	M	H	W	M	D	W	E	W	Y
G	L	A	G	L	S	T	I	I	T	M	L	O	S	D
R	N	A	L	A	A	N	L	N	C	L	I	O	B	R
O	U	I	E	S	R	Ⓚ	I	P	S	K	U	S	C	A
A	M	O	T	R	K	Ⓞ	F	C	U	P	S	D	A	T
T	S	E	L	A	E	Ⓞ	M	T	M	R	A	W	A	E
S	D	O	O	F	E	Ⓒ	O	A	T	M	E	A	L	S

© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 3/24

Adult, Aroma, Bags, Barley, Blend, Bowl, Carbohydrates, Cereal, Cinnamon, Cold, Cook, Corn, Cream, Cups, Dietary, Dish, Eating, Energy, Flavor, Flour, Food, Grains, Grits, Groats, Gruel, Healthy, Instant, Meats, Milk, Millet, Mixture, Oatmeal, Proteins, Pure, Rice, Rich, Seed, Simmer, Snack, Soup, Spoon, Sugar, Taste, Thick, Vitamins, Warm, Wheat, Wholesome

Yesterday's Answer: Lattice

Treasury 8 can be ordered by sending check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each. U.S. funds only) for the first volume; $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 br concrete house located in Chalan Piao beach fully fenced. $350.00 (does not include utilities) Call Mr. D.B. Mercado at 288-3571 or 286-3571

FOR LEASE-PROPERTY

Short or long term, property located in Garapan, great place for residencial or business. Please call 285-0018 or 287-2453

MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr., Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, : CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-0596

-v-

JULIANA R. OLKERIIL and JUNIOR N. OLKERIIL, Defendants.

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 15, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 004 B 44, situated in Tanapag, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,164 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 004 B 02 dated December 26, 1991, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 92-108, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 9, 2010, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 28th day of February, 2010:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,) CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0425

-v-.

CECILIA NAPUTI RIOS, Defendant.) SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susue, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by Messenter or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Dated, this 30th day of December, 2008.

WHATZIT Solution:
State of emergency

FOR SALE
CONSTRUCTION CO. & RESTAURANT
GOOD RECORD
Please call 483-1123

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $25.00
Call: 233-9889, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)

LOST PASSPORT

Name : Ling Wang
Date of Birth : Jul. 20, 1968
Passport No. : G28029465
Contact No. : 483-1593

LOST PASSPORT

Name : Sixu Wang
Date of Birth : Mar. 22, 1992
Passport No. : G13013746
Contact No. : 483-1593

LOST PASSPORT

Name : Wilson Zhao
Date of Birth : Nov. 29, 2008
Passport No. : 445988578
Contact No. : 483-1593

Employment Opportunities

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT) is looking to hire individuals to fill the following full-time positions:

1. Administrator
2. Administrative Assistant
3. Records Assistant

Closing Date: March 26, 2010 @ 10:00 a.m.

A detailed copy describing the individual position is available at the MPLT Office located on the 1st Floor, Morgen Building in San Jose.

Interested applicants are invited to submit their resume and a cover letter to:

MPLT Trustees
Morgen Building, Suite #106
P.O. Box 501089
Saipan, MP 96950

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS

JOINT RECRUITMENT NOTICE (1)

STERLING CORPORATION
DBA: Dynamic Shiatsu/Lagoon Spa/Yosuko Restaurant/ Saipan Vietnam Restaurant

Are currently seeking individuals for immediate hiring for the following Job Position:

- Masseuse
- Beautician
- Nail Technician
- Waiter/Waitress

Applicants must be able to work on weekends and holidays. With good verbal communication skills. Japanese or Russian, Korean, English languages a plus but not required.

Employee base salary to $ 4.55 / hour started, not less than 40 hours per week, overtime calculated by 1.5 times. Excellent staff will gradually increase the basic hourly wage or working hours, welcome to overtime. A check every two weeks one, Friday issued. If company to provide accommodation, employee will be deducted $100 / month rent & utilities. Workers compensation provided.

Requirements: People with good character, common sense, dependable, can be hard-working and a team player. Candidates must have the relevant documents such as: Umbrella Permit/Valid Passport/Photos/Student Visa (if student)/Green Card/I.R. Card/ US Passport and previous Employment Certificates. Applicants with relevant experience will be given priority for hiring.

Interested applicants are invited to submit their resume to Sterling Corporation Office (inside Dynamic Shop), located in Garapan area, across Fiesta Hotel parking lot.

Contact Nos. – Office: 233-0233
Cell: 888-9737 (Bing)
483-6668 (Mr. Liu)

Email: lzmspn@hotmail.com.

Closing date to submit application: March 31, 2010

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

EMERGENCY

© 2010 WHATZIT? www.whatzit.com Distributed by Universal Uclick

Find today's solution in this section

Wade has 27 points, 12 assists as Heat beat Nets

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—It's March and the Miami Heat are again getting their act together for the playoffs.

Dwyane Wade had 27 points and 12 assists, and the Heat beat the free-falling New Jersey Nets 99-89 on Monday night for their eighth win in 11 games this month.

''It's playoff time. It's money time,'' forward Michael Beasley said after the Heat overcame a sluggish start to hand the Nets their eighth straight loss. ''We all want to make a push in the playoffs. We've got to play like it.''

Historically, Miami has played well in March. Since the 2003-04 season, it has compiled a 65-39 record, with the 65 wins and the .625 winning percentage being the highest for the team in any month over that seven-year period.

After spending recent months a bubble team, the big March has lifted Miami into sixth place in the Eastern Conference, a game ahead of Charlotte and Toronto and 3 1/2 in front of ninth-place Chicago.

''We had to win,'' Wade said. ''We've got 11 games left. We look at our schedule and say we should win a majority of our games. Hopefully every one will be healthy. We get Udonis (Haslem) back Thursday and we can hopefully put a run together. We'll take it game by game, but most games we go in to, we feel that we can win and should win.''

Jermaine O'Neal, who was returning after missing a game with a sprained ankle, added 25 points. Beasley had eight of his 16 points in the fourth quarter and Carlos Arroyo finished with 12.

Brook Lopez had 26 points as the Nets (7-63) moved closer toward the worst record in NBA history in a month they probably would like to forget.

New Jersey has to win two of its final 12 to avoid breaking the Philadelphia 76ers' mark for futility (9-73), set in 1972-73.

The Nets played without interim coach Kiki Vandeweghe, whose mother is gravely ill in California. Assistant John Loyer replaced him.

Devin Harris added 16 points and Courtney Lee had 15 for New Jersey, which extended its franchise record with its 14th straight loss at home.

Miami trailed by seven after allowing the Nets to score 32 points in the opening period. It cut the lead to a point at the half and like so many teams, took control against New Jersey by outscoring it 27-14 in the third quarter.

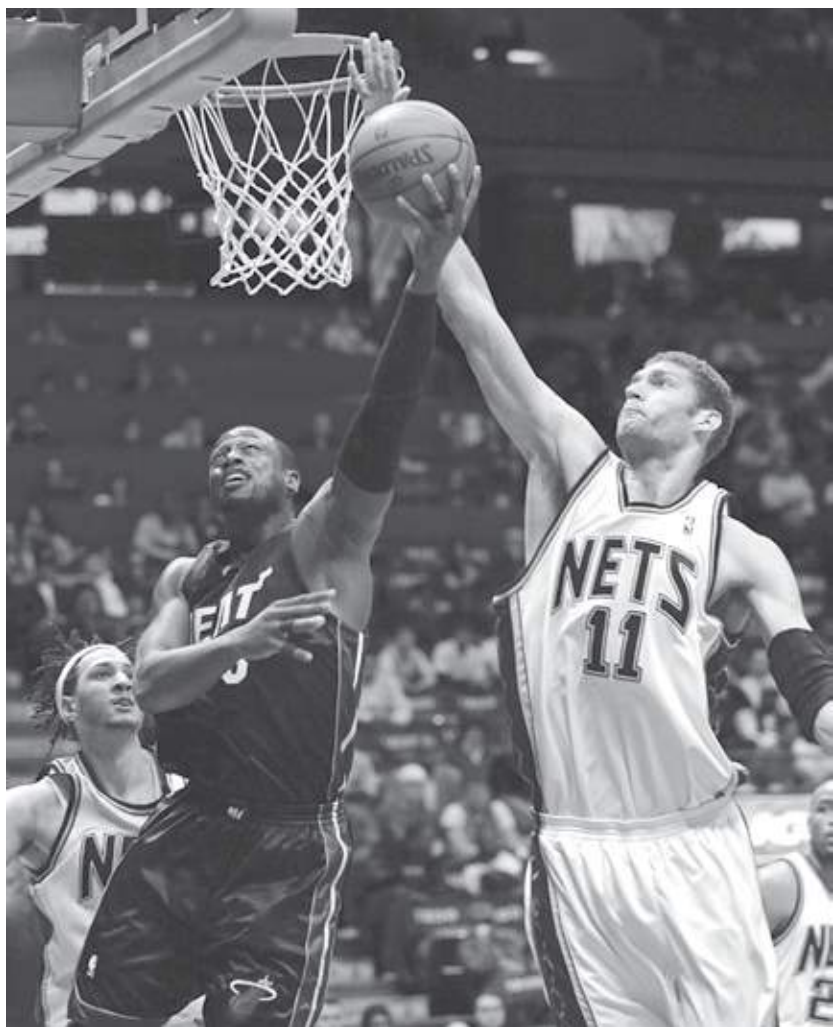
''By the second quarter we tightened it up defensively,'' Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. ''That was the difference in the game. You look at a team like the Nets and their record, and you're very deceived by it.''

Wade had 10 points in the period and set the tone early with a drive down the lane that he finished off with a monster dunk that cut the Nets' lead to 57-56.

Quentin Richardson gave the Heat the lead for good with a 3-pointer and Wade followed with a drive that ended with a fingertip roll for a layup.

After Terrence Williams hit a turnaround jumper, O'Neal converted a three-point play on a basket where the ball slipped out of his hands and swished. Beasley followed with a baseline jumper for a 66-59 lead and New Jersey never got closer than five points the rest of the way in falling to 0-3 against Miami this season.

''It was a tale of all tales,'' Harris said. ''We had a good solid first half. The third quarter, obviously, we didn't shoot the ball well and didn't guard, and there was a six-minute stretch that we've been known to have from time to time and it dug us a hole we could not get out of.''



AP

Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade, left, goes up with a shot as New Jersey Nets' Brook Lopez defends during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 22, 2010, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Williams had to leave the game midway through the third quarter after injuring his left foot on a drive to the basket. He finished with nine points, eight rebounds and seven assists. X-rays were negative, but he wore a plastic boot on his foot in the locker room.

Despite shooting nearly 57 percent from the field in the first half, the Heat trailed 53-52.

The difference was free throws. The Nets made 19 of 23 from the line and got a running—and we mean running—3-pointer from Williams at the buzzer to take the lead.

O'Neal and Wade kept Miami in the game, combining for 31 points, with Wade also handing out six assists.

Hornets 115, Mavericks 99

At New Orleans, Chris Paul played for the first time in 25 games, while Marcus Thornton scored 28 points to help New Orleans beat Dallas.

Returning from a left knee injury, Paul started but was limited to 21 minutes and had 11 points. He helped New Orleans pull away in the fourth quarter, but rookie Darren Collison ran the floor when the Hornets had a remarkable run of 23 straight points from late in the second quarter until early in the third.

David West had 25 points and 10 assists, Morris Peterson had a season-high 20 points and Collison scored 16 for the Hornets.

Jason Terry scored 24 for Dallas, which squandered a 16-point first-quarter lead.

Magic 109, 76ers 93

At Philadelphia, Rashard Lewis scored 24 points and Dwight Howard added 23 points and 15 rebounds as Orlando notched its third straight 50-win season.

Vince Carter contributed 17 points and Matt Barnes had 14 for the Southeast Division-leading Magic (50-21), who won 50 games in three straight seasons for the first time since 1993-96. The Magic have won three straight and 10 of 11.

Andre Iguodala and Elton Brand led the Sixers with 23 points apiece, while Samuel Dalembert had 16 points and 14 rebounds.

Spurs 99, Thunder 96

At Oklahoma City, George Hill scored a career-high 27 points, and San Antonio overcame Kevin Durant's 45 to beat the hosts and forge a share for sixth place in the Western Conference standings.

Serge Ibaka swatted away Tim Duncan's layup attempt to give the Thunder a chance with 8.8 seconds left, but Thabo Sefolosha missed a 3-pointer from the left wing with 5 seconds remaining after he was left open because of a double-team against Durant.

Manu Ginobili then hit one of two free throws with 2.3 seconds left, and Russell Westbrook couldn't connect on a half-court shot at the buzzer for the Thunder.

Bulls 98, Rockets 88

At Chicago, Derrick Rose had 27 points, eight assists and seven rebounds to lead Chicago over Houston.

Flip Murray added 18 points and Kirk Hinrich scored 17 for the Bulls, who won back-to-back games after losing a season-high 10 in a row.

The Rockets lost for just the second time in seven games. Luis Scola led Houston with 22 points and 10 rebounds and Kevin Martin added 19 points.

Bucks 98, Hawks 95

At Milwaukee, John Salmons scored 32 points, including the tiebreaking free throws with 21.8 seconds remaining, to lead the home team to a come-from-behind victory.

In a matchup of possible first-round playoff opponents, Salmons and Hawks All-Star Joe Johnson went back and forth down the stretch until the Milwaukee guard, who scored 16 in the fourth quarter, pulled it out.

Carlos Delfino added 23 points for the Bucks.

Raptors 106, Timberwolves 100

At Minneapolis, Chris Bosh had 21 points and 10 rebounds to help sluggish Toronto hand Minnesota its 13th straight loss.

Andrea Bargnani had 19 points and seven rebounds for the Raptors, who beat the Timberwolves for the 12th consecutive time. Al Jefferson had 22 points and seven rebounds for the Timberwolves, who have lost 19 of their last 20 games.

Jazz 110, Celtics 97

At Salt Lake City, Mehmet Okur scored all of his 14 points in the second half and pulled down 15 rebounds, while Deron Williams added 22 points and 11 assists as Utah ended Boston's four-game winning streak.

C.J. Miles added 23 points and Carlos Boozer overcame early foul trouble to finish with 19 points—all but one in the second half—nine rebounds and two blocks. Okur added three blocks for the Jazz, who controlled the lane and outscored the Celtics 50-36 inside.

Ray Allen had 15 points for the Celtics. Glen Davis scored 13, Paul Pierce 11 and Kevin Garnett 10.

Grizzlies 102, Kings 85

At Sacramento, Zach Randolph had 25 points and 12 rebounds, and Memphis used the streaky shooting of O.J. Mayo in the fourth quarter to beat the home team.

Mayo had 20 points and Rudy Gay 17. Mike Conley scored 12 points and Hasheem Thabeet added 10 for the Grizzlies, who outscored the Kings 51-33 in the second half.

Carl Landry scored 23 for the Kings, who played without Tyreke Evans and have lost three of four. Beno Udrih had 18 points and 10 assists, and Spencer Hawes added 13 points.

Suns 133, Warriors 131

At Oakland, Amare Stoudemire scored 37 points and Jason Richardson had a season-high 34 as Phoenix held off Golden State for its fifth straight victory.

Reggie Williams, an NBA Development League product who was signed for the remainder of the season on Monday, scored a career-high 29 points for Golden State.

The Suns remained in fifth place in the Western Conference playoff race, one game behind Utah.

Michigan State's Lucas ruptured Achilles' tendon

DETROIT (AP)—Michigan State star Kalin Lucas will miss the rest of the NCAA tournament after an MRI has confirmed he ruptured his left Achilles' tendon.

In Lucas' place on Sunday, Korie Lucious made a 3-pointer at the buzzer to put the Spartans into the round of 16 with an 85-83 win over fourth-seeded Maryland.

Lucas was hurt late in the first half of that game when he landed awkwardly after a shot. He is a two-time All-Big Ten player and leads the Spartans in points and assists.

He will be sidelined for 4 to 6 months.

"We feel terrible for Kalin, he was having a great NCAA tournament," Spartans coach Tom Izzo said in a statement. "The good news is there is no doubt he will make a full and complete recovery. He's a tough kid and he'll do everything necessary to return to his elite level."

Earlier in the day, Izzo told The Associated Press Lucas would not play Friday against Northern Iowa even if the tests showed he had just a sprain. Izzo said there was a 90-percent chance the MRI would reveal a tear.

Lucious will start, walk-on Mike Kebler has to play more and versatile forward Draymond Green becomes even more valuable with the ball in his hands.

Michigan State advanced to the round of 16 for the ninth time in 13 seasons, and is two wins away from its sixth Final Four appearance since 1999.

The Spartans will play ninth-seeded Northern Iowa in the Midwest Regional semifinals on Friday in St. Louis, facing the team that knocked top-seeded Kansas out of their path.

Izzo hopes his team lost only Lucas.

Chris Allen was limited to just 4 minutes against the Terrapins because of an injury to the arch in his right foot, Delvon Roe hobbled on his surgically repaired right knee against them and Raymar Morgan played with a broken tooth.

"We've got a `MASH' unit," Izzo told The AP. "The bottom of Chris' foot is purple, Delvon is playing on one leg and Raymar looks like a hockey player with his tooth cut in half. We think we can get Chris back - after showing toughness we've never seen from him—and we'll hold Delvon out of practice to let him rest as much as we can."

The injured players are the same ones that drew Izzo's tough love this past season: The coach kicked Lucas out of a practice, suspended Allen during the Big Ten tournament and Lucious from a game at Penn State.

Now the Spartans will face the Panthers missing their star guard and perhaps Allen.

"We're going to need everybody we have in uniform to step up," Izzo said. "There were times we had two walk-ons, a freshman and a sophomore on the court Sunday and that probably won't be the last time in the tournament. Northern Iowa is good, but thank God they're not a team that presses like Maryland."

Twins, Mauer make it official: $184M extension

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP)—Sitting a few feet from the people who inspired him to become one of the game's best players, Minnesota Twins catcher Joe Mauer became one of the game's highest-paid ones as well.

The 26-year-old Mauer signed an $184 million, eight-year contract extension Monday at a news conference with his parents and his two brothers looking on in a meeting room at the Lee County Sports Complex.

He even used the same pen he signed his rookie contract with in 2001, when the Twins made him the No. 1 pick in the draft out of Cretin-Derham Hall High School in his native St. Paul, Minn.

The new deal should make Mauer a fixture with his hometown team through 2018.

Flanked by his agents, Ron Shapiro and Michael Maas to his right and Twins general manager Bill Smith and team president Dave St. Peter to his left, Mauer said one word immediately after signing.

"Wow."

"There are a lot of people in this room who I care a lot about," Mauer said. "I'm kind of getting emotional. There are a lot of people who helped me get to this point."

Mauer's parents, Jake Mauer II and Teresa Mauer, were sitting in the front row. So were Joe's older brothers, Bill and Jake Mauer III, who, like Joe, both played in the minor leagues for the Twins.

Jake Mauer III enters his first season as manager of the Class A Fort Myers Miracle.

"They've been here for me my whole life," Joe Mauer said. "I wouldn't be here without them."

He said although he remained serious in getting a favorable deal, he never wanted to leave for another team in another city.

Mauer hit .365 with a career-best 28 home runs and 96 RBI last season after beginning the year on the disabled list while recovering from a back injury. He went on to win his second Gold Glove Award, his third American League batting title and his first Most Valuable Player Award.

AP

Minnesota Twins catcher Joe Mauer takes question from reporters during a news conference at the team's training facility in Fort Myers, Fla., Monday, March 22, 2010.

"I love putting on a Minnesota Twins uniform," Mauer said. "It's a real thrill to be able to do this for the rest of my career. I have to tell everybody here I'll give you everything I've got. My ultimate goal is to win a World Series. I'm looking forward to doing that. Thank you for coming, and let's get back to work tomorrow, eh?"

Twins owner Jim Pohlad ended his overseas vacation and flew from Hong Kong to Tokyo to Minneapolis to Fort Myers within a one-day span in order to attend the news conference.

"I had hoped that we would get to this stage," Pohlad said of signing Mauer. "We had high hopes. This was such a unique opportunity. He's a hometown, MVP. We're really happy to have him."

The contract extension prevents the free-spending Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees from entering a bidding war for Mauer. He would have become a free agent after this season.

"What would have been wrong with a bidding war?" Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek said earlier in the day. "I'd do that if I were the GM. He's one of the elite hitters, if not the elite hitter in the game right now."

Tampa Bay Rays manager Joe Maddon wanted to thank the Twins for not letting Mauer get into the hands of his team's AL East Division rivals, the Red Sox and Yankees.

"We can't have him," Maddon said. "We cannot afford that. For us and Toronto and Baltimore, we really appreciate that."

Contract negotiations between the Twins and Mauer began about 60 days ago.

"I made it real clear when we started the process that this is where I wanted to be," Mauer said. "I love my teammates, and I love our coaching staff. Once we started, I made it clear that this was my main goal. I wanted to stay in a Twins uniform, and I want to win. And we're definitely headed in the right direction."

The Twins already have a payroll approaching a franchise-record $100 million. Mauer's contract puts him in the same category as New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter and third baseman Alex Rodriguez.

St. Peter said the team's new regular season home, Target Field, will bring a new stream of revenue. But it would not change the team's philosophy of developing homegrown talent.

"We've talked for a long time about the importance of Target Field," St. Peter said. "It really puts the Minnesota Twins in a position to retain the talent that we work so hard to develop I the minor leagues."

Asked if his team would now be able to emulate the Yankees, St. Peter responded. "We're very happy being the Minnesota Twins," he said. "We're not out to become the other team that you mentioned."

Shapiro, Mauer's agent since his career began, also represented Cal Ripken Jr. and the late Kirby Puckett, both of whom stayed with the teams that developed them.

"It's a happy day in baseball," Shapiro said. "It's a happy day when a player can remain a part of the community and the team that nurtured him. It's a tough example to follow, because I have met few people in my entire experience that have the value system that this young man has."

NFL chief favors changes to OT rules in playoffs

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—NFL commissioner Roger Goodell likes the proposal to modify overtime in the playoffs. Can his support sway enough owners to approve it for next season?

The competition committee recommended Monday to the 32 owners that a team losing the coin toss and then surrendering a field goal on the first possession should have a series of its own in OT. Such a rules change would need 24 votes for ratification.

"This stays true to the integrity of the game," Goodell said. "The competition committee has come up with something very much worth considering. It keeps the tradition of sudden death, and I think it is responsive to some of the issues that have been brought up.

"It's getting a lot of thought. It's got potential to be a better system."

Statistics examined by the committee showed that since 1994, teams winning the coin toss win the game 59.8 percent of the time. The team that loses the toss wins the game 38.5 percent in that 15-year span, or since kickoffs were moved back 5 yards to the 30.

Those numbers alarmed Indianapolis Colts president Bill Polian, a member of the committee.

"We felt the stats are so arresting that something needs to be done," Polian said. "The original framers of the rule did not project the movement of the kickoff, or (the trend) in improvement of kickers."

One owner who would seem to have reason to favor the modification, Minnesota's Zygi Wilf, is not convinced it's a wise move. The Vikings lost the coin toss for overtime in the NFC title game, then saw the Saints march to a winning field goal on the first—and only—series.

Still, as of Monday, Wilf was leaning toward voting no to a switch.

"We need consistency of the regular season and postseason," he said.

But, as Polian and other committee members point out, the playoffs already have different overtime rules.

"We play until there is a winner," Polian said.

During the regular season, a winner must be decided within a 15-minute extra period.

The reason the proposal is only for the playoffs is player safety.

"We are very concerned about injuries occurring, which is the one great reason it has not been proposed before," Polian added.

Goodell's positive outlook on the overtime modification can't hurt its chances of passing, according to competition committee co-chairman Rich McKay.

"It's important," McKay said. "He's the one the owners would listen to. I think he'll leave it to us as a committee to make sure we make the case on the competitive aspect ..."

A proposal for a play to be whistled dead immediately when the helmet of the ball-carrier comes off also will draw much debate by owners. If passed, the ball will be spotted at the "progress spot where the helmet comes off," said the other competition committee co-chairman, Jeff Fisher, coach of the Tennessee Titans.

Barring unforeseen opposition, the positioning of the umpire will be moved from in the area of the linebackers to behind the offensive backfield. No vote is needed on this change, which is being made because McKay said the competition committee had at least 100 instances of umpires being knocked to the ground last season.

"They're kind of back there trying to survive," McKay said of the umpires' previous positioning.

Goodell shed little light on the labor situation. It's been several weeks since the league and the players union have held negotiations, but he blamed logistics. The NFLPA held its annual meetings in Maui earlier this month, and now the league is doing the same in Orlando.

"In the next week or so, the two sides will talk and I guess will be setting up some negotiating sessions," he said. "It's early; we're in the first quarter here."

The collective bargaining agreement expires next March and a work stoppage is possible without a new deal.

Goodell emphasized the league's intention to pursue all avenues in the StarCaps case now before a Minnesota judge. Vikings defensive tackles Pat Williams and Kevin Williams so far have successfully fought suspension under the NFL's anti-drug policy, arguing the NFL has unevenly enforced the policy and didn't properly inform players about the weight-loss supplement containing a banned substance.

Judge Gary Larson is accepting documents in the case after testifying recently concluded.

"This is very important to make sure we have a credible (anti-drug) program," Goodell said. "And we can't have that if we have different states and different players having different standards. It's not just true for us but for all sports."

Goodell plans to meet with Roethlisberger

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—NFL commissioner Roger Goodell plans to meet with Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger about the star's off-field problems.

Goodell already has spoken with team owners about Roethlisberger, who is accused of assaulting a 20-year-old college student in a Georgia nightclub on March 5. Roethlisberger's attorney says the quarterback committed no crime. Roethlisberger has yet to be interviewed by police in Milledgeville, Ga., and charges have not been filed.

"We take this issue very seriously," Goodell said Monday at the NFL meetings. "I am concerned that Ben continues to put himself in this position.

"I spoke with the Steelers and (team president) Art Rooney about it and, at some point, I will be meeting with Ben at the appropriate time."

Roethlisberger also is being sued by a woman who claims he raped her in 2008 at a Lake Tahoe hotel. He denies those allegations and has asked for counter-damages.

His latest alleged incident came during a 28th birthday party for Roethlisberger, who has a home about 30 miles from Milledgeville.

The two-time Super Bowl champ's lawyer, Ed Garland, said he has hired his own investigative team.

David Cornwell, Roethlisberger's lead attorney, said in a statement that he contacted the NFL when the most recent allegations were made against the quarterback.

"We agreed that I would keep the NFL apprised of all developments as they warrant," Cornwell said. "I believe the Commissioner will allow us to focus on matters in Georgia,

but we look forward to meeting with him and addressing any concerns he may have."

Rooney has said the Steelers are "in a situation we're going to let this investigation play out and then go from there."

Roethlisberger skipped voluntary workouts with the team last week.

Pacquiao: Mayweather needs to challenge me

HRVOJE HRANJSKI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BOXING

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Manny Pacquiao is still open to fighting Floyd Mayweather Jr. but is waiting for the challenge to come from the other side and for promoters to iron out a row over drug testing.

"I came this far in my boxing career without Mayweather, so I see no need to call him out," Pacquiao told reporters Monday. "He needs me to bolster his career.

"I am open to him fighting me anytime he wants to."

Pacquiao returned to thousands of cheering fans in Manila to celebrate his latest victory over Joshua Clottey in Dallas. He'll now focus on a bid to enter politics, campaigning for a seat in the Philippines' House of Representatives in the May 10 national elections.

Mayweather's insistence on Olympic-style testing was the primary reason negotiations fell through in January for a megafight against Pacquiao. Mayweather wanted blood tests up to 14 days before the fight, while Pacquiao claims he feels weak after drawing blood and would not agree to testing within 24 days.

AP

World boxing great Manny Pacquiao smiles as he poses with his wife Jinkee and two children Princess, center, and Jimuel, right, upon arrival to another hero's welcome early Monday March 22, 2010 in Manila, Philippines.

The negotiations quickly deteriorated, and Pacquiao signed to fight Clottey while Mayweather turned his attention to welterweight champion Shane Mosley.

Mayweather will face Mosley in Las Vegas on May 1 after both agreed to undergo an unlimited number of unannounced blood and urine tests before and after the fight.

"He should win against Mosley. If not, Mosley and I will fight," Pacquiao said.

Pacquiao is now concentrating on the national elections. His 2007 campaign fell short, but this time Pacquiao said he is better prepared.

"I have prepared for my political plans even before I faced Clottey last week," he said. "I am ready to campaign."

The two-month campaign starts later this week. Apart from running for his own seat in southern Sarangani province, Pacquiao is also campaigning for presidential aspirant Manny Villar, a senator and the richest politician in the country.

Villar raised Pacquiao's hand after welcoming him at a hotel Monday, before the boxer headed for a church service and a courtesy call in the presidential palace.

Asked if he plans to retire from boxing if he wins at the election, the 31-year-old Pacquiao said he was undecided.

"My own mother asked me to stop boxing. We'll talk about it," he said.

PAIRE

From Page 28

Michael Park made the twin goals for Tan Holdings FC-1. He drilled his first one in the first half at the 21st minute and the second one at the 49th minute.

Tan Holdings FC-1 now shares the No. 1 spot with MP United-Blue, as both teams hold 2-1-0 slates. In three matches, Tan Holdings FC-1 has earned five goals and gave up only one goal.

With the loss, Paire FC-Black dropped to a 0-2 record and remained at the bottom of the team standings in the eight-squad league.

Matansa 2, MP United-Blue 2

The second game on Pitch 1 between Matansa FC and MP United-Blue ended in a 2-2 draw.

Sean Perez scored both goals for Matansa in the second half and they had a chance to pull off an upset over MP United after leading, 2-1. Kennedy Izuka logged the first goal for MP United-Blue in the first half and the team forced a draw after Andrew Johnson found the back of the net in the second half.

Though MP-United is tied with Tan Holdings FC-1 in the team standings, the former has more goals than the latter with 14.

Angelo Jones owned four of MP United-Blue's 14 goals, tying Matansa's Perez and Tan Holdings FC-1's Park for the lead in the race for the golden boot award. Jones' four teammates, Izuka, Jehn Joyner, Nuri Malakut, and Chris Park, have scored two goals apiece, while MP United-White' Dakota Hall also has made two goals.

GIRLS
Paire 3, MP United 0

In the girls U14 game on Pitch 1, also at Hopwood, Paire shut out MP United, 3-0.

Tricia Ingram drew first blood for Paire, scoring in the 13th minute. She made it to the scoreboard anew in the first half, drilling her second goal in the 27th minute. Two minutes later, it was teammate Adela Saralu's turn to light up the scoreboard.

The victory was Paire's first in three matches, ending the team's two-game losing skid.

MP United absorbed its second loss in three games.

Matansa 1, Tan Holdings 0

The league-leading Matansa FC kept its unbeaten record in three games after downing Tan Holdings FC, 1-0.

Andrew Camacho recorded the lone goal in the game in the 13th minute, giving Matansa a clean record and handing Tan Holdings FC its second loss in three matches.

NATIBU

From Page 28

loss in 15 games.

Calikano 13, G-Ballers 10

In the second game Calikano outclassed the G-Ballers, 13-10.

Shortstop Ben Cabrera doubles and drove home two runners, while center fielder Ben Guerrero made an RBI single in the seventh inning to lift Calikano to win.

The game was tied, 10-all, after six complete innings when Cabrera and Guerrero hit their target at the top of the seventh to give Calikano its eighth win in 15 games.

At the bottom of the seventh, G-Ballers had several chances to stay alive, as they had one runner on first and another one on third with only one out. However, the G-Ballers' last two batters flied out, securing the win for Calikano.

Berdax 23, Fuegu 7

Berdax notched its fourth win in 13 games after whipping Fuegu, 23-7.

After engaging in a deadlock in the first inning, 3-all, Berdax broke away with a 10-run top of the second inning and then added five runs each in the third and fourth en route to an easy win.

Third baseman Jesse Tenorio and center fielder Ben Taisacan led Berdax' breakaway, blasting a two-run homer each in the second inning. Right fielder Asap Ogumoro also helped Berdax's cause, nailing five RBIs on a 4-for-4 performance at bat. He scored three runs, one homer, and two doubles.

STAAL-LED

From Page 28

month. Staal was also the first finisher in the swim leg of the 2010 XTERRA Saipan Championship, completing the 1.5-km race in the waters off Micro Beach in 15:10. He teamed up with runner Mamiko Berger and Calage in winning the mixed relay event in XTERRA Saipan, two weeks ago.

Calage, who was also the biker of the team that prevailed in last year's XTERRA and Tagaman relay, completed the bike leg of this year's Tagaman in 1:49:06. His time in the bike race, which had riders cruising from the southern portion of the island to the northern and then to the finish line at the American Memorial Park, was 26th best among the 108 bikers.

In the run leg, the perennial long distance runner Jang was in his usual get-up, negotiating the 15-km run from AMP to Oleai Beach Park and back without a pair of shoes. He timed in at 1:05:04, which is 14th best among 102 runners.

Jang caught up with XTERRA Saipan six-time champion Renata Bucher along Beach Road with the latter spending a few seconds of looking down on the former and finding out the Korean runner was barefoot. Bucher was in her running shoes and a pair of long socks to fight off the heat and was obviously surprised to see Jang running without shoes.

Jang's group defeated the trio of Andres Buitrago, Florence Antonio, and Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel. Buitrago timed in at 28:51 in the swim leg, Antonio clocked 2:05:56 in the bike race, and Kabiriel posted 1:06:46 in the run part for a combined time of 3:43:03.

Kento Akimaru, Danilo Paquerez, and Miyawaki Hitoshi submitted a total time of 4:00:19 to complete the Top 3 in the men's division.

In the women's division, the team of swimmer Grace Kimball (32:38), biker Kimiko Hasegawa (2:06:33), and runner Mamiko Oshima-Berger (1:06:12) clocked in at 3:46:35 to finish fourth overall and first in their division.

In the mixed division, Japan's Kiyoko Takahashi and Katsuo Kawamura timed in at 3:42:20 for the overall second best time. Takahashi and Kawamura prevailed over two other mixed relay teams.

Other finishers in the relay division were the teams of Cooper Schraudenbach, Derek Chambers, and Scott Hayden (4:03:08); Edgardo De Guzman, Ronald Lanuza, and Caesar Danao (4:06:31); Bryce Daly, Jason Tarkong, and Douglas Hartig (4:13:04); Kaisei Toda, Julio Vasquez, and Pedro Villaga (4:15:52); Minerva Cabrera, James Abuy, and Heartim Williams (4:17:33); Tamio Nishido and Fred Camacho (4:18:29); Zachary Griffin, Raymund Tolentino, and Byron Dela Cruz (4:20:52); Nicole LeBlanc, Terra Allen, and Autum Beechler (4:23:25); Shin Kimura and Ben Babauta (4:29:02); Mayson Eschu, Celerino Calayag, and Francisco Manglona (4:31:55); James Arenovski, Steve Nutting, and Janet King (4:49:45); and Andrew Kimball and John Jenkins (5:13:19).

BANSIL

From Page 28

runs off the Falcons' errors on right field and one more courtesy of Jason Reyes' single.

Juan Tenorio led off for the Falcons at the bottom of the ninth and flied out to right field. Tako Camacho was next at bat and was called for one strike and two balls before hitting his target and blasting a double to left field.

Bansil then stepped up to the plate, facing Fielders closer Ben Flores. Flores threw a low ball and Bansil let it go. Bansil swung in the next pitch and connected with the ball going deep between the left and center field.

Fielders center fielder Justin Reyes failed to catch the ball and his teammates helped out in chasing the leather, giving Camacho enough time to sprint to home plate for the winning run.

Bansil went 3-for-5 at bat and scored four runs and three RBIs. Closer Nunu Kapileo was only 2-for-4, but added three RBIs.

Rangers 9, Falcons 8

Shortstop Shane Yamada made things happen in the Rangers come-from-behind 9-8 win over the Falcons on Friday.

Yamada singled and drove home Dave Camacho at the top of the ninth to tie the game, 8-8, and then scored the winning run.

The Falcons went ahead, 8-7, after eight complete innings. Benwachi Taisacan led off for the Rangers at the top of the ninth and flied out. Dave Camacho was the second batter and doubled. Yamada was next and singled, bringing Dave Camacho home. Yamada later advanced to third on a stolen base. J.J. Laniyo batted fourth and hit his target, allowing Yamada to run to home plate first before the former was beaten to first base. Rangers catcher Pat Alepuyo flied out to end the inning.

At the bottom of the ninth, second batter Darren Pua flied out, while pinch runner Ben Cabrera, replacing leadoff batter B.J. Sablan, was tagged out to second base for the second out. The Rangers then wrapped up the match on a 6-3 putout play against Tako Camacho.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	45	25	.643	—
Toronto	35	34	.507	9 1/2
New York	25	45	.357	20
Philadelphia	24	47	.338	21 1/2
New Jersey	7	63	.100	38

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Orlando	50	21	.704	—
Atlanta	45	25	.643	4 1/2
Miami	37	34	.521	13
Charlotte	35	34	.507	14
Washington	21	47	.309	27 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Cleveland	56	15	.789	—
Milwaukee	38	30	.559	16 1/2
Chicago	33	37	.471	221/2
Indiana	24	46	.343	31Ω
Detroit	23	47	.329	32Ω

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	46	24	.657	—
San Antonio	42	27	.609	3 1/2
Memphis	38	33	.535	8 1/2
Houston	36	33	.522	9 1/2
New Orleans	34	38	.472	13

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	47	23	.671	—
Utah	46	24	.657	1
Oklahoma City	42	27	.609	4 1/2
Portland	42	29	.592	5 1/2
Minnesota	14	57	.197	33 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-L.A. Lakers	52	18	.743	—
Phoenix	45	26	.634	7 1/2
L.A. Clippers	26	44	.371	26
Sacramento	24	47	.338	28 1/2
Golden State	19	51	.271	33

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games
Orlando 109, Philadelphia 93
Miami 99, New Jersey 89
Chicago 98, Houston 88
Milwaukee 98, Atlanta 95
Toronto 106, Minnesota 100
New Orleans 115, Dallas 99
San Antonio 99, Oklahoma City 96
Utah 110, Boston 97
Memphis 102, Sacramento 85
Phoenix 133, Golden State 131

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Natibu	14	0
Man Amigos	14	1
Island Rebels	11	2
SaiPal	10	3
Chura	10	3
San Roque	9	4
Ur Balls	9	5
Freedom Air Flyers	8	5
Calikano-Falcons	8	7
X-Terminators	8	7
Hitz	7	6
6-Pack	7	6
Go For Broke	5	9
Blazers	5	10
Berdax	4	9
Lancheros	3	9
Red Eye	3	11
G-Ballers	3	11
Ramblers	3	11
Team Familia	1	11
Team Fuegu	1	13

NMIFA YOUTH STANDINGS

Boys U14

MP United-Blue	3	2	1	0	14	4	+10	7
Tan Holdings FC-1	3	2	1	0	5	1	+5	7
Paire FC-Red	3	2	0	1	3	3	0	6
Matansa FC	2	1	1	0	7	5	2	4
Tan Holdings FC-2	3	1	1	1	2	2	0	4
Independent FC	3	0	1	2	0	3	-3	1
MP United-White	3	0	1	2	4	14	-10	1
Paire FC-Black	2	0	0	2	0	3	-3	0

Girls U14

Matansa FC	3	3	0	0	8	0	8	9
Paire FC	3	1	0	2	3	2	1	3
MP United FC	3	1	0	2	4	8	-4	3
Tan Holdings FC	3	1	0	2	0	5	-5	3

Bike leg of 2010 Tagaman Triathlon

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Korean bikers pedal up to Paupau during the bike leg of the 2010 Tagaman Triathlon on Saturday.

A group of riders heads to Marpi.

Volunteers instruct a Korean rider to go straight ahead.

United Kingdom's Sam Gardner reaches Banzai Cliff first.

Canada's Mike Vine makes his turn at Banzai Cliff.

Six bikers cruise their way to the Last Command Post.

Saipan's Joshua Berger, right, gives a thumbs up sign as he and one Korean rider near the Last Command Post.

Two Korean riders are ahead of Australia's Jason Chalker.

United Kingdom's Michael Hiscott walks his bike out of the PIC parking lot.

Saipan's Mieko Carey rides her bike.

Wade has 27 points, 12 assists as Heat beat Nets

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

78 days to go — SOUTH AFRICA 2010 — FIFA WORLD CUP

Paire, Tan Holdings split games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Paire Football Club and Tan Holdings FC-2 faced off in the boys U14 division of the 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Spring League and split their games Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Paire FC-Red played in the first match on Pitch 1 and defeated Tan Holdings FC-1, 1-0.

Kenyon Schultz drilled the game-winning goal in the 61st minute of the match.

The win was Paire FC-Red's second in three games, putting the squad in third place in the team standings. Paire has a 2-0-1 (win-draw-loss) record, had scored three goals and gave up three, too.

Tan Holdings FC-2 dropped to a 1-1-1 slate for a tie for fourth place with Matansa FC. In three games, Tan Holdings FC-2 had scored only two goals and also allowed its foes a combined two goals.

Tan Holdings FC-1 2, Paire-Black 0

Tan Holdings FC-1 avenged its sister team's loss after nailing a 2-0 triumph over Paire FC-Black.

See PAIRE on Page 26

Matansa Football Club's Dale Ballesteros goes for a header, while MP United-Blue's Jake Lee looks on during their game in the boys U14 division of the NMIFA youth spring league on Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Natibu keeps unbeaten record

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Natibu stayed on course in its bid for an unbeaten regular season in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League, following a 14-7 win over the Blazers on Monday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The victory was 14th in as many games for the league-leading Natibu.

Left fielder J.R. Suel and center fielder Pete Teigita scored three RBIs apiece in Natibu's win, while shortstop Jonathan Welson and third baseman Bruce Norita added two RBIs each.

Natibu shut out the Blazers in the first four innings to take a 10-0 lead before the latter made a run in the fifth inning. The Blazers scored seven runs at the bottom of the fifth inning to threaten Natibu, 7-12. However the Blazers failed to complete the come-from-behind win, as the best they could do in the sixth inning was reach third base.

The Blazers absorbed their 10th

See NATIBU on Page 26

Staal-led team rules Tagaman relay

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Kai Staal, Rene Calage, and Chang Wang Jang pose for a group photo after completing the relay race in the 2010 Tagaman Triathlon on Saturday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A team composed of a young and fast swimmer, tried and tested biker, and a barefoot runner topped the relay division of the 2010 Tagaman Triathlon on Saturday.

Kai Staal, Rene Calage, and Chang Wang Jang completed the 2-kilometer swim, 6-km bike, and 15-km run in three hours, 20 minutes, and 56 seconds to become the overall No. 1 finisher among 17 teams that competed in the relay.

Staal was first out of the water, beating 107 other swimmers, including a strong Korean contingent and tough pros, after timing in at 25:37 in the two-lap race in the waters off Pacific Islands Club.

The Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmer is only 15 years old and it was the second time he ruled the swim leg of a triathlon event this

See STAAL-LED on Page 26

Bansil single lifts Falcons past Fielders

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Falcons quickly regained their bearings, slipping past the Fielders, 10-9, during their game in the 2010 Saipan Major League on Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Catcher Robert Bansil made the game-winning hit, allowing the Falcons to bounce back from a defeat at the hands of the defending champion Rangers last Friday.

Going at the bottom of the ninth inning, the game was tied at 9-all, after the Fielders rallied, scoring two

See BANSIL on Page 26

Falcons closer Nunu Kapileo, left, is greeted by catcher Robert Bansil after the former had a strikeout at the top of the ninth inning of their game against the Fielders in the SML on Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO